

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
June 4 - 5, 2009**

Meeting at the Radisson Hotel, Kingston

Commencing at Noon on Thursday, June 4, 2009

Present:

Ellard Beaven	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Chris Powers	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Terry Allen	AMO
Darrell Ellwood	OPFFA
Ed Godden	OFM
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC
Richard McCurdy	OPFFA
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Matt Pegg	O AFC
Darren Storey	FFAO

Wayne Sutherland MHSA (Observer)

Karen Hanna MOL Facilitator

Regrets:

Shayne Mintz	O AFC
Julie Shott	AMO

1. Review of Minutes from April 7-8, 2009

The minutes were accepted as written.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the minutes and distribute for posting on the websites.

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. OPFFA Announcement – Richard McCurdy

Ellard announced that this would be the last Section 21 meeting that Richard McCurdy would be attending as an OPFFA representative. The Committee thanked Richard for his many contributions over the years and asked if he could attend an upcoming meeting to formally receive a thank you gift of appreciation from the Committee.

4. Review of Comments on Draft GN – Pesticide Storage and Pesticide Storage Fires

The Committee discussed the comments received and made minor revisions to the GN. The GN will be numbered as GN # 6-30.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and proceed with approvals.

5. Draft GN – Agricultural Silos

Gerry and Wayne asked if this item could be deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION: To be discussed at the November 2009 meeting.

6. Revision of GN # 1-2 Annual Commercial Vehicle Inspections & Regular Vehicle Checks (with Ministry of Transportation Comments)

Chris provided an overview of the comments that were provided by the Ministry of Transportation on this GN. The GN was revised and renamed as GN # 1-2 Vehicle Inspections & Maintenance Program. It was previously known as GN # 1-2 Annual Commercial Vehicle Inspections.

ACTION: Karen to revise the GN and sent it out for comment.

7. Discussion regarding GN # 4-7 Wildland Fire Fighting, Protective Clothing and Equipment, Level One

Ellard and Rod presented information provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The Aviation and Forest Fire Management Branch of MNR has their own directives regarding the appropriate personal protective equipment to be worn by MNR wildland firefighters. Apparently the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) is convening a meeting in Quebec to discuss CAN/CGSB 155.22-97 and 155.23 and these standards could change as a result of the meeting. The Committee decided to make minor changes to the existing GN and rename the GN as GN # 4-7 Wildland Fire Fighting, Protective Clothing and Equipment for Municipal Fire Departments.

ACTION: Karen to make the minor changes to the GN and table it at the next meeting.

8. Revision of GN # 1-5 Life Safety Rope and Equipment

Matt presented a revised GN # 1-5 Life Safety Rope; this has now been renamed as GN # 1-5 Life Safety Rope and Equipment. Matt indicated that the revised GN was reviewed by the technical rescue personnel from Brampton Fire and Emergency Services.

ACTION: Karen to send the revised GN out for comment.

9. Revision of GN # 6-4 Rope Rescue

Matt presented a revised GN # 6-4 Rope Rescue; this GN was previously known as GN # 6-4 High-Angle Rescue. Matt indicated that the revised GN was reviewed by MHSA technical rescue and by the technical rescue personnel from Brampton Fire and Emergency Services and Toronto Fire Services. Matt noted that all Awareness Level competencies outlined in the GN can be achieved online, so the training is not onerous.

ACTION: Karen to send the revised GN out for comment.

10. Date for Joint Fire/Police/EMS Meeting

Karen notified the Committee that the Joint First Responders meeting will be held on November 19th at a location to be determined in Toronto. The final Fire Service Section 21 Committee meeting will be held on the following day, November 20th at the same location.

ACTION: Committee members to hold November 19 and 20 in their calendars for the upcoming meetings.

11. Facial Hair and SCBAs

Matt requested that a GN be developed regarding facial hair and the fit testing of SCBAs. It was proposed to develop this GN using the standard messaging that Karen has provided in the past. The Committee agreed to the development of a GN.

ACTION: Matt to develop the GN and table at the next meeting.

12. Communicable Diseases

The issue of communicable diseases that firefighters may be exposed to was discussed. The Committee discussed the fact that there are two separate issues; Designated Officers (outlined in GN # 2-5 Designated Officer Program for Communicable Disease), and communicable diseases. The Committee decided to work on separating the two issues in Guidance Notes (i.e. whether GN #2-5 should be revised, and perhaps creating a new GN for communicable diseases/infection control). Karen noted that there is information on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's website for First Responders that may assist.

ACTION: Darren and Darrell will work on this and table it at the November meeting.

13. Electrical Safety Handbook for Emergency Responders

Andy provided an update on this document which is referenced in GN # 6-20 Electrical Hazards in Rescue and Fire Situations. In addition, Karen reported that John Parish of the Municipal Health and Safety Association indicated that the revised 4th Edition 2003 of the Handbook (that is referenced in GN # 6-20) is the most current. Andy will provide Wayne with the components that he recommends in a revised MHSAs Handbook so that MHSAs can follow up with Ontario Hydro.

ACTION: Wayne will follow up with MHSAs. If required, the Co-Chairs can send a letter of support.

14. Information on Ventilation Saw Types

Ventilation saw types are referenced in GN # 6-22 Ventilation Saws. The Committee discussed the information from Andy and concluded that the original equipment manufacturers' operating instructions should be followed for the appropriate and safe use of rotary saws.

15. Truck Seating

Andy reported that Toronto Fire Services, on a go forward basis, will be going with the Spartan Chassis, Inc. seats with whiplash restraints designed by Bostrom. Section 7.1 of O. Reg. 714/94 Firefighters – Protective Equipment regulation is not specific with respect to the heights of back and anti-whiplash head supports. The Committee discussed the general problems with truck seating, namely the non-adjustability of seat belts and the fact that original equipment manufacturers do not want to alter seat belt configurations. This continues to be an issue whereby fire departments need to work with the original equipment manufacturer when purchasing new vehicles that may require a retrofit. The Committee is unable to resolve this compliance issue with O. Reg. 714/94; it is too vague with respect to specifications for anti-whiplash head supports (i.e. height) and seat belts (i.e. adjustability). A review of the regulation, which the Committee wrote to the Minister of Labour about in June 2008, is the only remedy to this situation.

16. Elevator Specific GN

Richard presented a draft Elevator Rescue GN that he completed subsequent to conducting research on the issue. This research was conducted further to a previous request to the Committee from Alan Brody of the Mnjikaning Fire Rescue Service. After much discussion of the issue, there was consensus reached that no elevator specific GN would be put forward at this time. The Committee decided to add some of the components of the draft GN that Richard wrote and incorporate them into GN # 6-16 Machinery/Electrical Lockout During Emergency Response.

ACTION: Andy and Darrell will revise GN # 6-16 and bring the revision forward at the next meeting.

17. **Quality of Breathing Air**

Karen reported that MOL's Provincial Diving Specialist asked that the quality of breathing air used by firefighters be raised at the Section 21 Committee. Apparently, MOL diving inspectors have come across a number of employers that are not following the CSA Z180.1-05 standard. It was noted that this standard is referenced in GN # 4-9 Respiratory Protection Program. A fire department was identified as one of the employers in this category. It is important for fire departments to ensure that the air test certificates are from accredited laboratories.

ACTION: Ed will contact the CSA to determine whether they have a listing of accredited labs for air test certificates (as required by the CSA Z180.1-05 standard).

18. **Flashover Simulators**

Richard discussed information that was contained in an e-mail from Swede Survival Systems. This contained a recommendation that 1/4" 4X8 masonite (hard board) be used when burning in a training session instead of the particle or OSB board may currently be used in Draeger / Swede Survival Systems. The Committee discussed the issue and concluded that based on the information known to date, the use of masonite may be safer. More information is likely to follow in the future based on the results of the McMaster University study being undertaken by Lorraine Shaw.

19. **Fireground Symposium**

Ed invited Committee members to a fireground symposium being held by the Ontario Fire College for those departments who conduct live fire training. The symposium will be held on June 25-26.

20. **MOL Report**

- Maurice Bitran, Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch, has left MOL to join another Ministry as an Assistant Deputy Minister.
- The draft CSA Z1006 Standard "Management of Work in Confined Space" is currently out for public review until the end of June. Karen indicated that individual associations may wish to provide comment on the standards. It should be noted that this standard does not impact the laws in Ontario with respect to the confined space requirements in the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the sector-based regulations made under the OHSA.
- MOL Hygienists have notified the Industrial Health and Safety Program that the Fitseal Respirator has been approved an N99 particulate respirator by NIOSH (noted that there are fit test requirements and workers must be trained on the use and limitations of the respirator as indicated by the supplier).

Next Meetings

Joint First Responders Meeting: November 19, 2009, in Toronto

Fire Service Section 21 Committee Meeting: November 20, 2009, in Toronto