

## ENFORCEMENT OF FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTES

Ministry of Labour inspectors refer to guidelines, guidance notes, alerts, etc. when they carry out their enforcement duties under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations. They are considered in determining if reasonable precautions for the protection of a worker are being taken under clause 25(2)(h) of the Act. Inspectors may reference these Guidance Notes in the narrative of their field visit reports.

Fire departments should, in consultation with their Joint Health and Safety Committee or Health and Safety Representative, incorporate into their standard operating procedures/guidelines (SOPs/OGs) or policy and operational guidelines (OGs) the principles set out in the guidance notes developed by the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Advisory Committee and distributed by the Ministry of Labour. SOPs/OGs should take into account the fire department's response capabilities. Firefighters should be trained using their own department's operational guidelines.

The materials in the manual are published and placed on fire service websites after considerable input has been received from the affected parties.

These guidelines quickly have become the accepted practice for fire fighter protection in Ontario.

Note that in volunteer departments, without a joint health and safety committee, a worker representative should receive a copy of this manual. The manual is available via the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs website and may be hyperlinked to:

[www.oafc.on.ca/committees/Health\\_safety/index.html](http://www.oafc.on.ca/committees/Health_safety/index.html).

The employer is responsible for the distribution of the material in the manual in accordance to section 25(2)(a) under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Anyone who does not have access to the Section 21 Health and Safety Manual should contact Karen Hanna, Section 21 Facilitator, Ministry of Labour, at (416) 212-0866.

## INDEX OF ALL FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTES

### SECTION ONE

#### Apparatus/Equipment

Fire Truck Occupant Safety.....	1-1
Vehicle Inspections & Maintenance Program.....	1-2
Backing Fire Apparatus.....	1-3
Enclosed Cabs for Fire Trucks.....	1-4
Life Safety Rope and Equipment.....	1-5
Inspection of Chains and Extrication Tools.....	1-6
Electrical Equipment and Cords.....	1-7

### SECTION TWO

#### Communications

Incident Command .....	2-1
The Buddy System.....	2-2
Radio Communications .....	2-3
Incident Safety Officer .....	2-4
Designated Officer Program for Communicable Disease .....	2-5
Emergency Preparedness .....	2-6
Reporting Exposures to Biological, Chemical or Physical Agents.....	2-7

## SECTION THREE

### Environment

Reducing Diesel Fumes in Fire Stations.....	3-1
Asbestos.....	3-2
Heat and Cold Stress.....	3-3

## SECTION FOUR

### Personal Protective Equipment

Application of Firefighters Protective Equipment Regulation.....	4-1
Eye Protection.....	4-2
Structural Firefighting Boots and Gloves.....	4-3
Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS).....	4-4
Protective Hoods.....	4-5
Firefighter Helmet Fit.....	4-6
Wildland Fire Fighting, Protective Clothing and Equipment for Municipal Fire Departments .....	4-7
Inspection and Replacement of Bunker Gear.....	4-8
Respiratory Protection Program.....	4-9
Hearing Protection During Emergency Operations.....	4-10
Fall Protection from Elevating Devices.....	4-11
Firefighter Head Protection (Structural Firefighting).....	4-12
Personal Protection During Fire Investigation.....	4-13

## SECTION FIVE

### Personnel Accountability

Firefighter Accountability and Entry Control.....	5-1
---	-----

## SECTION SIX

### Procedures

Persons Riding on Fire Apparatus Tailboards.....	6-1
Fire Fighting Near Water.....	6-2
Water and Ice Rescue.....	6-3
Rope Rescue.....	6-4
Confined Space Rescue.....	6-5
Flashover.....	6-6
Driving Skills for Emergency Apparatus Response.....	6-7
Aerial Ladder Operations During Lightning Storms.....	6-8
Hazardous Materials Response.....	6-9
Highway Traffic Control.....	6-10
Rapid Intervention Teams (Rescue).....	6-11
Rehabilitation During Emergency Operations.....	6-12
Dealing with Potentially Violent Situations.....	6-13
Safe Roof Operations.....	6-14
Responding to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism Incidents.....	6-15

Machinery/Electrical Lockout During Emergency Response.....	6-16
Clandestine Drug Labs/Marijuana Grow Houses.....	6-17
Lightweight Building Construction.....	6-18
Hybrid Vehicle Safety Issues.....	6-19
Electrical Hazards in Rescue and Fire Situations.....	6-20
Aircraft Fire Fighting Hazards.....	6-21
Ventilation Saws.....	6-22
Safety During Salvage and Overhaul.....	6-23
Building Collapse During Fire Situations.....	6-24
Safety Considerations for Fire Department Tankers.....	6-25
Structural Firefighting – Fire Streams and Ventilation.....	6-26
Fires in Industrial Dust Collectors, Hoppers and Bins.....	6-27
Rescue from a Collapsed Trench.....	6-28
Prevention of Falls from Fire Apparatus.....	6-29
Pesticide Storage and Pesticide Storage Fires.....	6-30

## SECTION SEVEN

### Training

Health and Safety During Training Exercises.....	7-1
Training Requirements.....	7-2
Documentation of Training Plus Daily Training Report.....	7-3
Firefighter Survival and Self Rescue Training.....	7-4
Live Fire Training Considerations for Acquired Structures.....	7-5