

**Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee
(Section 21 Committee)*
FINAL MINUTES
February 9-10, 2010**

Meeting at the Holiday Inn Select, Toronto

Commencing at noon on Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Present:

Ellard Beaven	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Chris Powers	O AFC – Committee Co-Chair
Terry Allen	AMO
Kevin Ashfield	OPFFA
Ed Godden	OFM
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Andy Kostiuk	O AFC
Richard McCurdy	OPFFA (Alternate for Darrell Ellwood)
Rod McEachern	FFAO
Shayne Mintz	O AFC
Gerry Pedwell	OPFFA
Matt Pegg	O AFC
Darren Storey	FFAO

Wayne Sutherland MHSA (Observer)

Karen Hanna MOL Facilitator

Regrets:

Darrell Ellwood OPFFA

Special Guests:

Kathleen Therriault	MOL
Marlene Hall	MOL

1. Review of Minutes from November 20, 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

With respect to Item 17, Outcomes of the CGSB 155.1 Meeting, Andy offered to follow up with the Toronto Fire Services representative that attended the meeting to get an update as to what is happening with the standard.

ACTION: Andy to provide an update at the next meeting.

3. Review of Comments on the Draft GN Fit Testing and Facepiece Seal

The Committee reviewed the comments received.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and send it through the approvals process.

4. Revision of GN # 4-6 Firefighter Helmets

The Committee discussed revisions to the GN. The revisions included the head protection requirements outlined in O. Reg. 714/94 Firefighters – Protective Equipment regulation.

ACTION: Karen to finalize the GN and place it in the manual.

5. Review of GN # 6-10 Highway Traffic Control

The content of the GN was discussed and revised. Representatives of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) will be sent the GN for comment prior to it being finalized.

ACTION: Karen to send the draft revised GN # 6-10 to MTO for review prior to it being finalized.

6. Draft GN # 6-31 Fires and Rescues in Agricultural Silos

The draft GN was reviewed to ensure consistency with GN # 6-27 Fires in Industrial Dust Collectors, Hoppers and Bins. A link to a Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Fact Sheet entitled “Silo and Hay Mow Fires on Your Farm” was added to the GN.

ACTION: Karen to send the GN out for comment.

7. Revision of GN # 2-5 Designated Officer Program for Communicable Disease

The Committee discussed the proposed revisions to the GN.

ACTION: Karen to consult with the MOL Chief Physician prior to finalizing the revised GN; thereafter, it will be finalized and placed in the manual.

8. Draft GN on Infectious Diseases Program

The draft GN prepared by Darren was discussed at the meeting.

ACTION: Andy and Darren to revise the GN for discussion at the next meeting.

9. Report on the National Personal Protection Council Meeting

Matt reviewed a power point presentation that he developed to report on the results of the National Personal Protection Council Meeting that he attended in October 2009. Matt informed the Committee that he had applied to be on the technical committees for two NFPA standards, NFPA 1851 and NFPA 1971. The OAFB Board has endorsed Matt’s application to be on these technical committees. He will find out in March 2010 as to whether he will be on these committees. With respect to the revision cycles for these NFPA standards, it was noted that NFPA 1971 was open for comment until December 4, 2009. NFPA 1851 is up for review next year.

ACTION: Matt to distribute the power point presentation to the Committee for information.

10. Update on O. Reg. 278/05 and O. Reg. 714/94

Kathleen Therriault and Marlene Hall of the Health and Safety Policy and Program Development Branch (HSPDB) of the Ministry of Labour attended the meeting on John Vander Doelen’s behalf. They came to give an update to the Committee on the application of O. Reg. 278/05 to firefighters and fire investigators and on the need for regulatory amendment of the Firefighters – Protective Equipment regulation, O. Reg. 714/94. It was acknowledged that the Committee has been very patient on both of these regulatory issues.

With respect to O. Reg. 278/05, Kathleen indicated that some or all of the issues that were identified by the Asbestos Working Group (that met from November 2008 – June 2009, and included Andy, Gerry, Rod and Karen) should be dealt with through a blend of regulatory and non-regulatory changes. Kathleen outlined the recent change to the Designated Substances Regulations (DSRs) where 11 DSRs were amalgamated into O. Reg. 833 Regulation respecting Control of Exposure to Biological, Chemical and Physical Agents. Unfortunately, O.

Reg. 278/05 was not affected by these recent changes. As it had previously been brought to the attention of the Minister, Chris again indicated that the old Asbestos DSR had an emergency clause and asked if a clause such as this could be an option. HSPDPB staff recognized that there are different options, and this could be one of them. HSPDPB indicated that they will bring these issues to the Minister's attention again.

With respect to O. Reg. 714/94, HSPDPB acknowledged that the Committee has been extremely patient and that fire service stakeholders have spoken with the Minister about this. Problems with citing the CGSB standard in the regulation as opposed to NFPA 1971 were outlined. NFPA 1851 was also discussed as a separate issue. HSPDPB indicated that there has not been any direction from the Minister at this point to proceed with a review of the regulation.

Chris stated to HSPDPB that the Committee was very disappointed that this information is all that HSPDPB could provide as a report to the Committee after this long period of time. No solution has been proposed on O. Reg. 278/05 even though the Committee identified this as an issue for the fire service in June 2008. With respect to O. Reg. 714/94, the Committee has been requesting regulatory review since January 2004 (and wrote to the Minister in June 2008). As both issues have been outstanding for a long period of time, the Committee decided that it would write to the Minister. HSPDPB indicated that they hope to have more information by the time the Committee meets next in April.

ACTION: Co-Chairs to write to the Minister of Labour regarding O. Reg. 278/05 and O. Reg. 714/94.

11. Revision of GN # 6-30 Pesticide Storage and Pesticide Storage Fires

Karen indicated that the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) had suggested some minor changes to the GN. The MOE form "Fire Department Pesticide Storage Notification" that is attached to the GN is a sample only; copies of the actual form are to be obtained from MOE offices.

ACTION: Karen to integrate the MOE changes into the GN and place the revised GN into the manual.

12. Draft GN on Elevator Rescue

The Committee discussed the draft GN on Elevator Rescue. The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) has a training program on elevator rescue for fire departments, however, the training is expensive and not readily available. The Committee indicated that it would be optimal if MHSA could explore developing an awareness level training so that there are more available training options. The Committee decided to invite TSSA to the next meeting to discuss an awareness level GN (so that fire departments can determine situations in which special training may be required to perform elevator rescues).

ACTION: Karen to invite TSSA to the next meeting. Ellard and Wayne will follow up with MHSA regarding the development of awareness level training. Andy and Matt to revise the draft GN and bring it back to the next meeting for discussion.

13. Bill 168

Ellard reported that the OPFFA recently had a meeting with the Minister of Labour and John Vander Doelen, Director of the HSPDPB regarding Bill 168 (An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety act with respect to violence and harassment in the workplace and other matters). Karen reported on the various workplace violence resources (i.e. fact sheet, guideline, etc.) being put together by the Ministry of Labour that will be available on the MOL website. There is also a slide package that has been prepared for use with external stakeholders.

ACTION: Karen to distribute the slide package to Committee members.

14. MHSa response – Electrical Safety Handbook for Emergency Responders

The Committee received a response from Bill Blackborow, Vice President – Municipal Team, Health and Safety Association for Government Services (HSAGS). He suggested that a small cross-functional team be established to more fully determine the scale and scope of this undertaking. The Committee identified Andy, Rod and Ellard as members who could participate on this group. Ed offered the Ontario Fire College as a location for the meeting. It will be up to HSAGS to set the meeting date.

ACTION: Co-Chairs to respond to Mr. Blackborow identifying members and meeting venue.

15. MOL Report

- The third phase of the Needle Safety Regulation was announced on November 26, 2009. Effective July 1, 2010, safety-engineered needles will be mandatory in doctors' and dentists' offices, community health centres, family health teams and independent health facilities. The use of safety-engineered needles will also be mandatory in other workplaces where health-related services are provided, including home care services, ambulance services, public health programs, health support services to students in schools, and health care/first aid services to workers or individuals in industrial and other workplaces.

Next Meeting Date

April 7-8, 2010, in Toronto