

Meeting Minutes

Ontario Fire Service Advisory Committee

(Section 21 Committee)

June 4, 2021

Meeting held on Zoom

Commencing at 8:30 hrs on June 4, 2021

Present:

Rob Grimwood	O AFC - Committee Co-Chair
Aaron Burr ridge	O AFC
John Mavrinac	OPFFA – Committee Co-Chair
Tim Sparks	OPFFA
Dan Worrall	OPFFA
Victor Dillabaugh	OPFFA
Doug Kellam	Volunteer firefighter
Mark Pankhurst	AMO
Cathy Hoffman	AMO
Juanita Martin	MLTSD
Guy Degagné	Office of the Fire Marshal – Ontario Fire College
Tanya Morose	PSHSA (Facilitator)
Alex Gutnik	PSHSA (Minutes)

Regrets:

Ellard Beaven	O AFC
Mike Vilneff	O AFC
Randy Narine	Volunteer firefighter

Greetings

R. Grimwood welcomed the group and shared that he is looking forward to in-person meetings. He asked whether MLTSD has provided any direction on when in-person meetings will resume. J. Martin reported a decision on a date to return to in person committee meetings has not been made at this time. A plan will be developed for all Section 21 Committees to return safely to in-person meetings.

1. Review of Minutes from March 5, 2021 Meeting

Minor edit to the minutes requested by D. Worrall and agreed to by the committee regarding section 3. The Minutes from March 5, 2021 meeting were otherwise approved as submitted.

2. Prevention Council (Brian Arnold)

Executive Summary notes and presentation is attached.

Brian Arnold thanked the Committee for having him and expressed the desire for enhanced communication across sector groups and committees regarding best practices, findings, and recommendations. Of note from the presentation:

- objectives and general updates of the MLTSD Prevention Council were provided.
- there is an opportunity for this committee to share their findings and best practices with other sectors and small businesses.
- there is a desire to bring private providers of health and safety training under the purview of the CPO to standardize health and safety training across Ontario.
- 2021-26 MLTSD OHS Strategy has been developed and the release is pending.
- Prevention Council is undertaking work on anti-black racism and that diversity, inclusion and equity are health and safety issues. He encouraged the Committee to direct their efforts and conversations to ending discrimination in the workplace.

R. Grimwood shared that the OAFRC developed a Committee to examine and rectify diversity and inclusion issues. The OAFRC has one Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and diversity and inclusion are now embedded in all other OAFRC committees.

J. Mavrinc raised the need for an NFPA standard for firefighters, noting that this is one of the only industries that does not have minimum qualifications or accreditation. All agreed that third party standard of certification which benefits both employer and worker. Rob Grimwood noted that this matter would be a good opportunity for this committee and the Prevention Council to collaborate on.

The group discussed O/Reg. 714 and Guidance Notes. The discussion covered current regulation and support for the work of regulation working group.

The group also discussed:

- high hazard training and line of duty fatalities;
- regulating an unregulated industry that is outside of purview of Colleges;
- support for amendments to Coroner's Act for line of duty death inquests;
- possibility for Ontario to explore and borrow from NIOSH investigation model; and
- sharing of findings/lessons learned with an eye to prevention.

Brian expressed appreciation to Committee for work that's been done on the Cancer Prevention Checklist. Encouraged the committee to continue work to promote resources available to support the sector.

Action Item: Brian Arnold to send slide deck to Tanya. She will share it with the group.

3. Guidance notes (Juanita Martin)

- September and December 2020 Guidance Notes have been approved and are waiting to be posted. March 2021 and June 2021 Guidance notes will start approvals after June 2021 meeting.

- Guidance Note 3-1 (the feedback has been consolidated and is awaiting approvals).

Cyclical Review Guidance Notes 4-2 to 4-11

Guidance Note 4-7

Add reference to respiratory protection in PPE. Add reference to CSA standard for eye protection (clarify facial protection and eye protection for chainsaw).

Guidance Note 4-8

Edits to guidance note include adding reference to:

- following manufacturers recommendation regarding the washing components of bunker gear.
- PPE program includes advanced inspection and testing of PPE.
- cancer prevention checklist
- training on use/care/limitations of PPE.
- program review/evaluation.

J. Mavrinac: Desire expressed for regulation 714 to reflect bunker gear built and replaced following NFPA 1971 and 1851. NFPA 1971 references 1851 and how gear should be cleaned, inspected and retired. Both standards are related and reference each other. **Action item for Regulation Working Group to include in their work.**

Guidance Note 4-9 This guidance note was revised when changes made to Regulation 833, published in March 2020. No changes at this time.

Guidance Note 4-10 No changes. Note that NFPA reference is 90dBA and Ontario regulation is based on 85dBA

Guidance Note 4-11 No changes.

Guidance Note 4-13 Add reference to cancer prevention checklist, contamination of gear, and use/limitations of air monitoring devices

Action Item: Address fire inspector working alone in working alone GN review.

Guidance Note 4-14

- Edits to employer responsibilities
- Reference to resources added: infectious disease risk assessment, Designated Officer program
- Update language for group of experts to consult

Dispatcher Guidance Notes: The Committee discussed the absence of Dispatcher guidance notes. J. Martin advised them to focus on hazards that dispatcher and communicator could be exposed to.

Action Item for Committee: Consider inclusive language regarding communicators during cyclical review of guidance notes (e.g., working alone, OSI exposures).

4. OAFH H&S Seminar

R. Grimwood provided an update on the 2021 virtual OAFH Health and Safety Seminar. There will be a Section 21 Committee panel.

Action item: Request for as many committee members who are interested and available to sit on S21 committee panel presentation on Oct 20 at 1015-1130. Please confirm attendance to R. Grimwood.

The committee provided suggestions to R. Grimwood for additional speakers/topics as OAFH develops the agenda.

5. Cancer Checklist

R. Grimwood provided an update on the OAFH Webinar that occurred on May 25, 2021.

In the absence of doing in-person meetings OAFH has started hosting webinars. The webinar in May focused on the cancer prevention checklist. In the webinar, attendees were directed on how to access and use the Cancer Prevention Checklist. The checklist is not an enforcement tool but an educational tool. It should be used as part of a broader auditing process to aid in the development of an occupational disease prevention plan.

The webinar was not accessible to non-members.

Committee members shared their experiences working with MLTSD hygienists and their citation of S21 guidance notes.

The Committee discussed importance of broadening the risks responders are exposed to.

6. PSHSA Update

PSHSA update was provided by T. Morose and was distributed to all committee members.

7. PFAS - Dr. Graham Peaslee (University of Notre Dame) and Jeff Knobbe

Graham Peaslee provided an overview of PFAS, noting that the chemicals are used in many household products and in many firefighting foams.

- Takeaway: Keep using the gear as there is not an alternative at this point. Wash hands before and after exposure to PFAS containing materials, handle it with gloves, keep it away from living quarters. There are other materials that can be used instead of PFAS like lanolin.

Jeff Knobbe presented on PFAS in structural firefighting PPE, overview of NFPA 1971, DWR finishes, Legacy Gear, Suggested handling procedures and housekeeping.

R. Grimwood asked what he can do as a purchaser of PPE to avoid PFAS. J. Knobbe explained that it's not the manufacturer that determines the specifications of the materials used but the mill. Dr. Peaslee stated that since this is a transitional time away from PFAS, there may be more options if you defer your purchase or limit the term of the contract.

Purchasing agents have a role to play in requesting PPE component materials that do not contain PFAS, and to request labels on new bunker gear indicating the absence of PFAS.

8. New Business

- Website housekeeping: Is there an option to have cancer prevention checklist linked to on website's list of guidance notes. MLTSD communications is working on this request that was previously submitted.
- Director Government and Stakeholder Relations: Committee agrees to invite PSHSA Director of Government and Stakeholder relations to attend September meeting. T. Morose to send invite to S. Bastos for September meeting.
- AMO update: Meeting is coming up following this committee meeting. Cathy will send email summary to this committee. This may be a possible September agenda item.
- Head Protection harmonization – J. Martin shared that MLTSD policy group is exploring harmonization of head protection in regulations. Information and consultation will be shared with this committee when details are available.

Meeting concluded June 4, 2021 @ 15:00 hrs.

Next meeting dates:

September 17th 2021

December 2nd and 3rd 2021