



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Large Urban Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs mission is to lead innovation and excellence in public and life safety. Our vision is to inspire and influence a safer Ontario.

March 21 & 22, 2019
Vaughan City Hall, Level 200 Centre – Room 244
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, ON

Participants: Tim Beckett, Matt Pegg, Bill Boyes, Dave Decker, Steve Kraft, Steve Laforet, Jon Rehill, Deryn Rizzi, Kim Ayotte, Brian Durdin, Lori Hamer, Richard Boyes

Regrets: Dave Cunliffe

Minute Takers: Mark Tishman

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Chair thanked Vaughan for hosting.

2. Additions to the Agenda

- In service performance
- Social Media dialogue on call volume thresholds
- Response to injuries as a result of not using PP
- Women in the fire service
- Mental Health during hiring process
- Line of duty death benefit

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- None.

4. Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting

Motion: That the minutes from the November 1 & 2, 2018 meeting are approved as written.

Moved by Bill Boyes

Seconded by Jon Rehill

Carried

5. Simultaneous Notification Update – Tim Beckett, Bill Boyes

- A meeting took place with Allison Blair of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).
- EMS TIFF is currently in 5 centres (Kitchener, Mississauga, Peel Region, Barrie, and Guelph), but Peterborough has a view system.
- The CAD upgrade is moving from DCI to MDS and was told by the province there would be no upgrade issues, however at the MOHLTC meeting, the province stated that once the



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CAD system is upgraded the currently level of Simultaneous Notification (SN) will be lost due to compatibility issues.

- Later it was noted that SN would be lost not because of compatibility issues, but due to additional costs, therefore Mississauga will lose their SN. To keep the SN it was estimated to cost \$900,000.
- MOHLTC wants the changeover to the new CAD and MPDS by July 31st.
- Brampton is working with INFOR and received a quote for a central integration platform to maintain current levels of service. The interface costs dropped by approximately \$100,000 with yearly maintenance about the same as the current costs. However, this may not be an option for everyone depending on the CAD system in use.
- Richard noted that at the ESSC policy day the province stated that they would keep the 5 sites and once the bugs were worked out, it would make provincial deployment easier.
- Medical Priority Dispatching System (MPDS) is running in Niagara and is a superior program when compared to DCPI and may result in a reduction of medical calls by 30-50%.

6. O AFC Board Update

- Richard spoke to the upcoming O AFC conference and Queen's Park Advocacy Day reminding everyone it was from May 2-5, with the Advocacy Day May 1st included in the conference.
- The O AFC met with AMO who noted that they would like to see the reporting regulations cancelled and dislike the community risk regulation.
- AMO is caught up on the definition of 'rescue' in regards to BC model of levels of service set out by each municipality. AMO is very concerned with indemnity.
- Richard had a productive meeting with the new Interim Fire Marshal.
- Richard noted that in meetings with the Provincial government, they seem open to the idea of CO detectors in public spaces, 10-year battery sealed smoke and CO alarms, and Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPS) for type 1 offenses.
- Bill gave an update on the SIR working group's progress. He noted that the OFM is planning to go ahead with the public reporting regulation on Jan 1, 2020. However, the public reporting (due to the language in the legislation) would only account for approximately 15% of all fire response calls. The working group is in the process of organizing a retreat with the OFM to review the SIR form and codes in late May early June.
- Tim committed to sending a platoon chief or non-union member to attend and Bill will be reaching out to the telecommunicators group.

Action Item: Group to provide names to Bill for the SIR retreat

- There was a discussion about the O'regs and when the O AFC membership was consulted on them.
- The O AFC Board has taken a position on the Regulations, however as that decision has yet to be relayed to the province, it is being kept confidential from the membership until it can be conveyed to the province to maintain a good relationship with the province.



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7. Update from the Large Urban Training Sub-Committee – Kalpana Rajgopalon

- There have been two meetings in September and February.
- The sub-committee is striving towards the NFPA standards, however not all NFPA standards are certifiable.
- Timeliness and proctoring continue to be issues due to inconsistencies.
- Mississauga is administering tests (written and practical) of the 1006 for tech rescue, should certification ever become available for alternative compliance.
- Some 1006 requirements, particularly for the technician level is not easy to test or certify as others.
- 1001-1041 and those between are extremely challenging for certification and testing. There are also questions regarding who would have certification jurisdiction.
- Currently the OFM is the only authority for Pro Board certificates, however they can delegate the administration of testing.
- Mississauga is confident that their training programs would meet any OFM criteria.
- Tim noted that their focus is on NFPA 1000 chapter 5, and while their not looking to become the delegated authority, they are trying to be the delegated testing authority up to chapter 5 and would like to bring in a third party to audit their training course to ensure proper administration.
- Mississauga is willing to share their model or put on a train-the-trainer course.
- Tim noted that the Fire Marshal only has authority over Pro Board and IFSAC, but don't own NFPA standards.
- Manitoba is a certification body for Pro Board and IFSAC in Manitoba and was asked to come to Ontario for certification courses, however the Fire Marshal told them not to.
- Tim stated that Mississauga wants to be a designated authority that meets chapter 5, certification would be a nice to have, but not needed.
- Kalpana noted that they don't really use the fire college materials, but commercial textbooks.
- Kalpana also stated that the lead evaluators are municipal employees, but can't evaluate 'own' programs so they evaluate other areas.

8. Update from the Large Urban Prevention Sub-Committee – Nancy MacDonald-Duncan

- The sub-committee will meet for the first time on Tuesday and will be discussing: fire inspectors' trends and resolutions, plans examinations, and urban design planning.

Action Item: Nancy to send a list of inspectors that Mississauga has spoken with to Tim who will share with the committee

9. Review Items to Discuss with Fire Marshal Tomorrow

- Delegation of authority for testing various NFPA exams and longer-term goal of marking them.
- Ask to greenlight Manitoba for the previously discussed train-the-trainer program.
- Cancelled public safety awards.



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- Customer service issues at the OFM

10. Board Updates

- O AFC is working with MTO to resolve the class D license issue and no service calls.
- O AFC met with AMO and discussed no-service calls and stated that if AMO isn't interested in resolving the issue then the O AFC will drop it.
- The O AFC is moving forward on WSIB and claims, while AMO has concerns regarding this.
- Richard requested a GTA fire station for a safety commercial, no names would be involved.

Action Item: Tim to look at training bay options

11. Metro Chiefs Meeting in Edmonton

- The Metro Chiefs meeting is occurring in Edmonton from June 8-14. All union presidents are invited to the banquet on Thursday paid for by Edmonton fire and the roundtable discussion occurs on Friday.

12. Regional Reform – Impacts on Fire Service

- It was stated that history has shown that regional amalgamations usually do not save money, but usually results in an increase of the levels or services in the region.
- The report will go to Cabinet sometime in June, who will decide what to do with it

Motion: A motion to adjourn was put forward by Jon Rehill and was seconded by Deryn Rizzi.

Items not discussed on Thursday will be carried over to Friday



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March 21 & 22, 2019
Vaughan City Hall, Level 200 Centre – Room 244
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, ON

Friday, March 22, 2019
Lunch at 12:00pm - Meeting at 1:00pm

Participants: Tim Beckett, Bill Boyes, Dave Decker, Steve Kraft, Steve Laforet, Matt Pegg, Jon Rehill, Deryn Rizzi, Lori Hamer, Kim Ayotte, Richard Boyes

Regrets: Dave Cunliffe, Bill Boyes

Minute Takers: Mark Tishman

Guests: Interim Fire Marshal John Pegg

1. Reviewed agenda items not covered in previous day.

2. Update from Interim Fire Marshal Jon Pegg

- John informed everyone that he is the Interim Fire Marshal and Chief Emergency Manager and that he expects to keep only one of the two roles.
- A discussion about AS&E certification took place noting that the fire service is unhappy with the current manager.
- There was an offer to help the OFM with regards to certification.
 - A request was made for delegated authority to review testing, evaluations, and marking.
 - A specific request of delegation of authority for pre-requisite exams for 1031 was asked for as trying to get 30-60 people in a room is difficult.
 - The Interim Fire Marshal floated the idea of a potential pilot project to delegate scheduling of exams, confirmation of eligibility for those taking the exams, and conducting the exams, while the Fire Marshal's office would mark them.
 - It was also noted that the 90 day notice is an issue and the removal of it, would be helpful.
 - Toronto mentioned that the 1031 co-requisite exams for Ontario content are a challenge and would like to see if those exams can be delegated so that administration and marking could occur on their own.
 - Richmond Hill has authority to teach 1031 through 1035.
 - 1961 need an evaluator and job performance checklist similar to 1006, however 1006 is a 40 hour cumulative course which would require ongoing evaluation.



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- 1006 cannot currently be evaluated.
- Richmond Hill does 1006 trench certification in the USA currently.
- There is frustration with AS&E evaluators as they are usually not from the region and don't conduct reciprocal agreements with other departments. They're just assigned.
- The Fire Marshal has put 1006 certification in abeyance which is causing difficulties.
- Toronto noted that once the NFPA is updated, the previous standard no longer exists.
- The discussion evolved to creating a working group to delve further into this issue and to ensure it aligning with NFPA chapter 5 as a base. Some names mentioned were: Bill Casey, John Davidson, Chuck Guy
- The Interim Fire Marshal noted that they would need to speak with IFSAC and Pro Board to move forward.
- There was talk of a regional model for this.
- It was pointed out that if small and rural fire departments are left out or forgotten, it will result in future problems. Communication will be key. Richard offered the OAFCS help on messaging.
- E-testing was mentioned however in rural and northern Ontario; however, it may not work due to lack of bandwidth. It was also noted that phones and tablets would not be useable for e-testing. The group did agree that an Emergency Operations centre may work for testing.
- There was a discussion about the public safety committee who may have the potential to be in conflict of interest.
- The issue of 'customer service' was raised regarding the Office of the Fire Marshal, basically a change of culture that views the fire service sector as clients
- There was a question regarding the status of the Fire Marshals website and if it is undergoing maintenance to make it more user friendly

Action Item: Interim Fire Marshal to look into website to see if it is being updated

- Richard noted that at the PAC meetings it was apparent that some presenters from the Fire Marshal's office were not knowledgeable in the subjects they were presenting and often when faced with questions told the questioner to speak with Toronto or a 1-800 number.
- The Interim Fire Marshal is aware of the issues with the 1-800 number and a decision was made to redeploy field advisors away from the large urban areas, to the rural and north where they will be better received.
- It was noted that one year contracts for field advisors don't offer enough job security for people with the needed skill sets and therefore under trained individuals take the positions.
- The future of the fire college was brought up. The Interim Fire Marshal is unsure of its future. Level 2 teams were also mentioned and a discussion about the number and size of teams ensued. It is something that could be raised at the 2019 May OAFCS conference.
- The SIR form was raised that the Interim Fire Marshal noted that the regulation for public reporting is ahead of fixing the form. He noted that there is faulty data that would need to be taken care of before public reporting would be accurate.



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- The Community Risk Assessment Regulation was raised and the Interim Fire Marshal has raised the question of the template form it was supposed to produce. It was noted that the community risk assessment does not need to be sent to, or approved by, the Fire Marshal's office.
- A new "w" form was mentioned and needs to be filled out during mutual aid calls, and is required to be signed by a platoon chief or higher. As it is now a legislative requirement, it is something that needs to be filled out. It is possible that the updated SIR form would eliminate the need for this.

Action Item: Interim Fire Marshal to look at the 'w' form

Action Item: SIR working group to look at the 'w' form

- A question about the provinces nuclear plan was raised and if the Fire Marshal's office would be doing a public education campaign.

Action Item: Interim Fire Marshal to look into

Interim Fire Marshal Left

3. Roundtable

- Toronto asked if the others maintained minimum levels of staffing, what percentage of in service performance over the course of a year.
- Kim noted they were at the point that overtime costs are as high as hiring new staff.
- Kim also noted that they take 6 trucks out of service and still consider it full

Action Item: Kim to get Matt information on their full-service compliment.

- Toronto also noted that the union is suggesting using overtime to maintain a 100% compliment level.
- Tim noted they use a hybrid system with vacancies and LTD to backfill.

Action item: Tim to get Mark Gorman to get the policy and send to Matt

- Toronto noted a conversation occurring on social media regarding the concept of unit utilization through call volume thresholds.
- Kim stated they deploy based on risk and not unit utilization and that liability factors matter more.
- Mississauga uses GIS modeling, and while they couldn't reached the 90% 4 minute thresholds, they added 7 new stations and achieved a 75% rate which wasn't fought by the union. Along with a public education campaign. They also doubled inspection staff.
- Matt noted that CFAI made that recommendation to Toronto, but with the pre vs post building code construction of high rise, it would be extremely difficult.



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- Tim mentioned the public education they do, does three things 1) educate building owners 2) conducts quasi inspections on the top 10 issues most common in high rise structures and 3) inspectors come in yearly for full investigation.

Action item: Jon to reach out to Nancy for a copy of the public education campaign

- Matt gave a presentation to Toronto Community Housing Corporation as they're the largest landlord in the country.
- Kim mentioned if any department had any programs or strategies in place to hire more woman fire fighters.
- The numbers of woman in the fire service ranged from 3%-10%.
- Mental Health, Recruitment, PTSD:
 - Jon mentioned using a mental health expert during the recruitment hiring process during interviews for psychological testing purposes.
 - It has noted that other departments have tried this psychological testing before and found it very helpful, usually with it occurring between the first and second interviews helping with resiliency and PTDS triggers.
 - Toronto is interested in pre-exposure to PTSD triggers before hiring to ensure candidates are mentally strong enough to accept what they will deal with in the field.

4. Next Meeting

- Late May/June. To be determined.

Matt Pegg made a motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kim Ayotte seconded.