



# EMS S.21 Subcommittee

## Meeting #1 - 2018 – Minutes

Date: March 8, 2018

Chair: Ian Nash

Location: Centre for Health and Safety Innovation, Mississauga

*The following is a summary of subjects discussed at the above meeting. Please advise of any errors or omissions.*

### Attendees:

Members: Ian Nash (Chair), Joel Usher, Roger Mayo, Chris Stolte, Wayne Markell, Robert Crossan.  
 Jennifer Amyotte (by teleconference)  
 Observers: Rob Nishman (MoHLTC)  
 Regrets: Mark Etherington  
 Facilitator: Craig Lawrie, MOL  
 Guests: Yvette Shirtliff, MOL Health and Safety Policy Branch

	Topic/ Presenter	Comments/Action Items
1	Approval of Agenda	The meeting agenda was approved. Discussion about Terms of Reference was added to meeting under MOL update.
2.	Minutes of previous meeting and action items	Minutes of the previous meeting (November 30, 2017) were presented and accepted. Action items from the previous meeting were reviewed. The following notes on action items were made:  Craig updated the guidance note on opioids. Sent to group – to be discussed later in this meeting.  Notes regarding the trenches guidance note have been shared with group. Further discussion later in this meeting as an agenda item.
3.	MOL Update (C. Lawrie)	<b>1) Terms of Reference (ToR):</b> The ToR for the sub-committee was distributed for discussion. Craig highlighted changes that are proposed for consideration.  <u>Change #1:</u> Currently the ToR states that the EMS Subcommittee will achieve its objective by: ...engaging in <u>tripartite</u> (employer and labour and Ministry of Labour (MOL)) discussions on health and safety issues within the EMS sector. The proposed change follows: ...engaging in <u>bipartite</u> (employer and labour) discussions on health and safety issues within the EMS sector.  <u>Rationale:</u> The committee is bipartite. Ministry of Labour is not technically a member of the committee, but functions as a facilitator. The change reflects this.  <u>Change #2:</u> Current ToR states that <i>Membership will be confirmed by the Section 21 Healthcare Committee and by the Minister on a three-year basis.</i>

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		<p>The proposed change follows: <i>Membership will be confirmed by the Section 21 Healthcare Committee and by the Ministry of Labour (MOL) on a three-year basis.</i></p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> Currently the Minister does not “confirm” membership of the subcommittee. The change will be a more accurate reflection of the nature of the committee membership.</p> <p><b>Action: The committee accepted the proposed changes. The Healthcare Section 21 committee must approve the ToR. Craig will present this at their next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>2) Safe at Work Ontario Consultations:</b> Each year the Ministry conducts consultations sessions in various sectors, for both labour and employers to provide feedback to the MOL. These sessions help the MOL to plan activities and strategies, etc. Craig reported that consultations for the Industrial Sector are completed. A summary of some of the comments from the participants at consultations was provided.</p> <p>The Health care sector consultations have also been completed, Ian Nash attended the Health care consultation session, and he provided a summary of some of the comments made at the Health care consultations sessions</p>
4.	<b>Guidance notes</b>	<p><b>Synthetic opioids</b> – this guidance note was reviewed with the subcommittee. Edits have been made and a final draft will be re-circulated for comment. Following approval at this stage the note will be submitted for wider comment on the PSHSA web pages and with the Healthcare Section 21 committee.</p> <p><b>Action: Craig to send final draft for review and comments.</b></p>
5.	<b>Consultation – changes to Industrial Establishments Regulation</b>	<p>Yvette Shirtliff, Senior Policy Advisor from the MOL provided a presentation and update regarding consultation about changes proposed in the Industrial Establishment Regulation. (The link to the policy consultation paper and web pages was previously sent to members).</p> <p><b>Action: members wanting to send comments on the consultation can send them to Craig for collating. If there are comments, a submission can be made, signed by the co-chairs, on behalf of the EMS subcommittee.</b></p>
6.	<b>Guidance Notes</b>	<p><b>Trenching and Excavation:</b> The subcommittee discussed the status of this GN. It was decided that it should cover trenches and excavations, and that it should focus on risk and hazard assessment.</p> <p><b>Action: Craig to prepare next draft for review based on comments made at committee.</b></p> <p><b>Confined Spaces:</b> Discussion on this note deferred to next meeting.</p>
7	<b>Roundtable</b> (all members)	<p><u>J. Usher:</u> A few issues have come to light within his member groups that the subcommittee should be aware of and that may require some further discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Body armour/protective vests – some members have indicated an interest in wearing these, and there are some EMS services in other jurisdictions that have implemented these for some of their staff.</li> <li>• Off-gases (from firefighting operations) – some members have made inquiries about hazards to EMS staff in situations where equipment has off-gassing – such as in shared bases. Is there any risk to EMS staff from this?</li> </ul>

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		<p>Research – some interest in determining how to track rates of certain things among EMS in Ontario – for example, cancer rates, mental health, suicide. How should paramedics interested in this go about finding data?</p> <p>Other subcommittee members also expressed interest in this. It may be something for discussion in broader EMS related forums – how to access research, cancer registries etc.</p> <p>Base pager tones – while this continues to be a concern, Joel noted that a trial is being conducted at the service in Peel, where escalating tones are being tried. The trial has involved MoHLTC and should be completed by end of March 2018.</p> <p><u>I. Nash:</u> Ian noted that concern has also been raised about noise in vehicles, and also that it appears that some Paramedics have experienced hearing loss in the left ear. (Possibly related to road noise from driver position).</p> <p><u>R. Mayo:</u> Currently dealing with a JHSC recommendation related to communications – when crews are operating in the area of the US Border communications (radio) interference often occurs and crews cannot communicate with dispatch. They will be discussing this with MoHLTC.</p> <p><u>J. Amyotte:</u> Advised the group that she is on a working group looking at ambulance design as part of a CSA committee.</p>
8	<p><b>Confirm dates for next meetings and Adjourn</b></p>	<p>For 2018 meetings will be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- June 14, 2018</li> <li>- September 6, 2018</li> <li>- November 29, 2018</li> </ul>