



EMS S.21 Subcommittee

Meeting #2 - 2018 – Minutes

Date: June 14, 2018


Chair: Ian Nash

Location: MOL Mississauga office. 1290 Central Parkway West

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 (by phone), Mark Etherington, Robert Crossan.
 Observers: Rob Nishman (MoHLTC), Tim Metcalfe (PSHSA)
 Regrets: Chris Stolte, Wayne Markell, Jennifer Amyotte
 Facilitator: Craig Lawrie, MOL
 Guests: JJ Stanley, MOL Occupational Health and Safety Branch, Health Care Unit

	Topic/ Presenter	Comments/Action Items
1	Approval of Agenda	The meeting agenda was approved. - item added to agenda at request of R. Nishman – discussion about beards and respirator use.
2.	Minutes of previous meeting and action items	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting (March 8, 2018) were presented and accepted. Action items from the previous meeting were reviewed. The following notes on action items were made:</p> <p><u>Action item:</u> Craig presented the proposed changes to the terms of reference to the health care Section 21 committee. Committee accepted changes as proposed. Amended Terms of Reference attached.</p>  <p>Terms of Reference 2018March08.pdf</p> <p><u>Action item:</u> The Opioids GN was posted on the PSHSA web site; also circulated to HC Section 21 Committee. Comments collected for presentation at this meeting (see below).</p> <p><u>Action item:</u> No further comments on the proposed changes to the industrial establishment regulations were received from sub-committee members</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Comments related to the Trenching and Excavation GN were incorporated and a draft of the GN was prepared for discussion (see below).</p>
3.	MOL Update (C. Lawrie)	Craig discussed some changes at the Industrial health and Safety program of MOL. - Craig is leaving the program, and a new person will be assigned as facilitator for the EMS Section 21 sub-committee. An introductory email will be sent

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		<p>out soon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vivien Wharton-Szatan, the Provincial Coordinator for the program has also left the program. The Provincial Coordinator is now Ron Landry; who is acting in the position until it is filled permanently. <p>Jennifer (JJ) Stanley, MOL Provincial Specialist, Health Care introduced herself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - facilitator for the Provincial Health Care Section 21 Committee. - provided a brief overview of membership of HC Section 21 committee and some of the items they are working on.
4.	EMS workers with beards – respirator use.	<p>Discussion only - R. Nishman asked to do a quick discussion to gauge how different services may deal with workers with facial hair when respirators are required. This may be due to a religious need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - members had a discussion about this. It was noted that a powered air-purifying respirator could be used in some circumstances as the shroud fits over the head and beard, and it is not a tight fitting respirator. The problem is that if a helmet is also required a PAPR does not meet requirements for a helmet. - the sub-committee cannot provide a specific response, it was acknowledged that while this is a challenge, it is up to individual employers to find a safe way to manage these types of concerns.
5.	Base pagers (I. Nash)	<p>Discussions regarding base pagers are ongoing in different settings across the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ian reported that he and a number of colleagues from CACO (CUPE Ambulance Committee) had an opportunity to meet the new Chief Prevention Officer (Ron Kelusky), and base pager tones was part of the discussion. - Ian noted that there was a trial of a new base pager in Peel. His information is that the tone sounds the same, but it does start at a lower volume level before it rapidly reaches the highest volume level. He reports that the trial is not as successful as hoped. Also noted that an Essex ambulance base was able to do some work to lower the volume on a base page – it is not an escalating tone as desired, but the volume is lower. - R. Crossan mentioned that a new base pager is to be installed at one of the bases in his area, and he understood it might be one with escalating tones.
6.	Guidance Notes	<p>Synthetic opioids – the GN was posted for comments on the PSHSA web site for 30 days. It was also sent to the Health Care Section 21 Committee. Comments on the note were discussed. Some comments were accepted, and edits will be made to the GN accordingly.</p> <p>Action: Craig made edits to the GN.</p> <p>One of the comments that the members felt needed to have more research was related to the use of terms “contamination” and “exposure” as used in the GN.</p> <p>Action: R. Mayo agreed to check with resources he has regarding the use of terms “contamination” and “exposure” as relates to chemicals and hazmat, to see if there is a need to use consistent or complimentary language.</p>
7.	Guidance Notes	<p>Trenching and Excavation: The subcommittee discussed reviewed the current draft of this GN and made suggested edits.</p> <p>Action: Craig to prepare next draft for review based on comments made at committee.</p>

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		Confined Spaces: Discussion on this note deferred to next meeting.
8	Future work of committee	<p>Members were asked to brainstorm ideas and thoughts about issues or hazards that may come up in the future:</p> <p>The following list of issues was compiled;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMS workers having to travel on/across ice. - EMS workers travelling in conveyances other than ambulance – e.g. boats, snow machines, ATVs. - Noise, from within ambulances. - Vehicle ergonomics. - Communications concerns – e.g. “dead” zones for radios. - EMS workers inquiring about (or requesting) body armour, protective vests etc.
9	PSHSA Update	<p>Tim Metcalfe showed a short presentation about PSHSA, resources etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tim also noted that the President and Exec Director from PSHSA, Ron Kelusky, has taken the role as Chief Prevention Officer for the province. - Tim indicated that Mr. Kelusky is familiar with EMS from a previous position he had in an EMS service. <p>Both Tim and Ian mentioned that the CPO has offered to come to an EMS Sub-committee meeting. The committee agreed to send an invitation to the CPO for a future meeting.</p>
10	Roundtable (all members)	<p><u>J. Usher:</u></p> <p>(Not related to the EMS committee, members wanted to congratulate Joel for his recent running in the Provincial Election).</p> <p><u>M. Etherington:</u> Noted that one of the biggest health and safety issues that seem to come up at his service is fatigue and stress management issues. Difficult to deal with as it relies on employer recognition and work regarding schedules and shifts etc.</p>
11	Confirm dates for next meetings and Adjourn	<p>For 2018 meetings will be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - September 6, 2018 - November 29, 2018