



## EMS S.21 Subcommittee

Meeting #3 - 2017 – Minutes

Date: September 14, 2017

Chair: Ian Nash

Location: Centre for Health and Safety Innovation, Mississauga

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

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### Attendees:

Members: Ian Nash (Chair), Jennifer Amyotte, Roger Mayo, Chris Stolte, Mark Etherington, Wayne Markell, Robert Crossan.

Observers: Rob Nishman (MoHLTC), Tim Metcalfe (PSHSA)

Regrets: Joel Usher

Facilitator: Craig Lawrie, MOL

Guests: Jules Arntz-Gray, MOL Prevention Office

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	Topic/ Presenter	Comments/Action Items
	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mark Etherington, Critical Care Paramedic from Ornge is the new worker representative appointee of Unifor. Members introduced themselves.</li></ul>
1	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	The agenda for the meeting was approved.
2.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting and action items</b>	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting (June 15, 2017) were presented and accepted. Action items from the previous meeting were reviewed. The following notes on action items were made:</p> <p>Guidance note #1, "Application of EMS Guidance Notes" has been reviewed and updated. Approved for posting.</p> <p>Guidance Note #2, "EMS Vehicle Occupant Safety" has been reviewed and updated. Approved for posting.</p> <p>Guidance Note #3, "Reducing Diesel Exhaust in EMS Stations" has been reviewed and updated. Approved for posting.</p> <p>Guidance Note #5, "Traffic Safety and Worker Visibility", requires a small edit to reflect the current CSA standard referenced in the note and to re-word the description of high visibility vests to match the description used in the provincial equipment standards.</p> <p><b>Action: Craig to forward revised guidance notes to PSHSA for posting. Guidance note #5 will be updated as discussed and sent to the committee for a final review prior to posting.</b></p> <p>C. Lawrie forwarded previous minutes to T. Metcalfe for posting on PSHSA web pages and the minutes have been posted. Members had also requested that all minutes available should be sent to each of the subcommittee members. Craig</p>

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		<p>provided minutes of past meeting to members.</p> <p><b>Action Item: Roger to inquire with the OAPC about having minutes and guidance notes posted on the OAPC web pages.</b></p> <p>Subcommittee members assigned different topics were asked to do some preliminary work with their assigned topics and provide an update at next meeting. This item has been completed, and is ongoing as members work on assigned topics.</p>
3.	<b>Guidance notes</b>	<p>1) Synthetic opioids – R. Mayo, I. Nash, R. Crossan: The committee had a discussion regarding current guidelines and resources which are available. Members agreed to share any resources that may be relevant or of interest for the work group to review. (R. Mayo circulated some resources already).</p> <p>2) Confined spaces – W. Markell and C. Stolte: The committee had a brief discussion about scope of this note. Providing some information about recognizing hazards was considered important. Also ensuring there is clarity about the definitions of confined spaces vs other hazardous spaces.</p> <p>3) Trenches and excavations – J. Amyotte: M. Etherington has agreed to assist with this. The committee had a discussion about some of the scope of this – excavations could be large, a quarry for instance. Are there considerations around this? Other relevant hazards that may be encountered such as working near the “edge”, or when a trench or excavation might be “safe” to enter.</p> <p><b>Action: Subcommittee members assigned different topics continue to work on content for guidance notes.</b></p>
4	<b>PSHSA Update</b>	<p>T. Metcalfe provided an update regarding PSHSA activities. Currently they are planning 2018 activities such as certification classes and also training sessions for designated officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PTSD E-learning modules are currently being developed.</li> <li>- A recent PTSD Fact Sheet has been developed for EMS.</li> </ul>
5	<b>MoHLTC Updates</b>	<p>R. Nishman provided updates about changes in Branch structure at Emergency Health Services Branch Two new branches have been created from the previous one. New branches are called: Emergency Health Regulatory and Accountability Branch (EHRAB) and Emergency Health Program Management and Delivery Branch (EHPMDB).</p> <p><b>Action: At the committee's request, R. Nishman will provide a copy of the organization charts for the two new Branches (These have already been sent to members and are attached to the minutes).</b></p>
6	<b>MOL Report</b> (C. Lawrie)	<p>C. Lawrie provided an MOL update: (full update attached to these minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some changes are being made to regulations under the Act that deal with workplace exposures.</li> <li>- The Industrial Establishments Regulations (Reg. 851) will be revised, changing the minimum oxygen content in section 138(1) of 18% to 19.5%.</li> <li>- The next MOL blitz in the industrial and health care sectors will focus on “Falls – including slips and trips”. The blitz will start October 2 and run until November 24, 2017.</li> <li>- A short summary of some of the recent activity of other section 21 committee guidance notes was provided. Health Care Section 21 Committee will be working on a guidance note related to transfer of care.</li> </ul>

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		<p><b>Action: Committee members asked if they could be consulted about the transfer of care guidance note as it may relate to the work of EMS. Craig will make the request to the HC Section 21 committee.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A few other items related to research documents and resources were also mentioned for the committee's information.</li> </ul>
7	<b>MOL Prevention Office - Presentation Regarding Accreditation (J. Arntz-Gray)</b>	<p>A presentation was provided about the Prevention Office and an update about the work that is being done toward establishment of an accreditation program for workplace health and safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation attached to minutes.</li> </ul>
8	<b>New Business – (Base Pagers)</b>	<p>J. Amyotte reported on a concern that has been raised at her service regarding the sound produced by base pagers. The Noise Regulation would apply to the sound produced, however at this point it appears that compliance with the noise regulation is not the issue. The concerns raised by EMS staff are related to the startle effect of the alarm when it goes off. Other committee members have also encountered this concern from different services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- J. Amyotte discussed activities that they have done to investigate this and mitigate if possible. The equipment is provided and maintained by the MOHLTC. It does not have a progressive alarm (quieter at start – louder as it progresses).</li> <li>- Reports that other services may have different systems, however so far she has not been able to identify a service with a progressive alarm that can be used.</li> <li>- She has worked with MoHLTC technician at her service to try to reduce volume, use baffles and re-locate alarms to reduce the effect.</li> <li>- They will continue to investigate this to see if a solution can be found.</li> </ul> <p>Other committee members have also looked into this issue. Some of the members offered to connect with other colleagues to see what involvement they have had with this.</p>
9	<b>Roundtable (all members)</b>	<p>R. Crossan – during a regional meeting with Paramedic Chiefs, a member from a First Nations service inquired if there was representation on the sub-committee for EMS from First Nations. The point was discussed, and a number of questions were raised by the committee to be taken back for consideration: 1) Are there specific or unique issues that are not currently being addressed by the work of the sub-committee? and 2) Among First Nations EMS that are not represented by a union, is there a method to speak, communicate or coordinate with each other – e.g. an informal association or network?</p> <p><u>I. Nash</u> – Indicated that he has also done some research into the startle effect of base pagers. Is interested in seeing others looking into this.</p> <p><u>W. Markell</u> – provided some information about what his service has been able to do with AEDs – At this time all of the full time paramedics and managers carry an AED and first aid kit in their personal vehicles if they want to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a local police detachment also carries them in police vehicles and report that they have had a number of saves as a result of having readily available AEDs.</li> </ul>
10	<b>Confirm dates for next meetings and Adjourn</b>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Next Meeting is set for November 30, 2017</p>

**Attachments:** (see below)

1) MoHLTC Organization Charts:



EHRAB Org chart  
V.1 in yellow.rtf



EHPMDB Org chart  
August112017 V.3.1

2) MOL Prevention Office – Accreditation presentation:



Accreditation  
Consultation Deck (

3) Ministry of Labour update to EMS Subcommittee:



MOL update to the  
EMS Section 21 Subb