

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Health and Safety Committee

- i. The meeting was called to order at 19:00 hrs, December 11, 2016. Members present were Capt. Adam Corrado, Chair, Chief Michael Trick, Captain David Bourgoïn, Lt. Jeremy Kaswer, FF Brian Baldwin, FF Mark Wilson. Department Physician was not represented. Invitees present Capt. D. Theriault, Capt. A. Gelber, Prob FF F. Lupis, MD.
- ii. Approval of Minutes of 2nd meeting 10/9/16 - having achieved a quorum, the chair called for a vote to accept the minutes of the 2nd meeting, and the minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.
- iii. Old Business

This meeting was scheduled for the purpose of discussing the initial draft of the Carcinogenic Exposure Mitigation Plan, abbreviated the CMP. The plan was distributed by email beforehand, and all company captains were invited to attend the discussion to provide input. Resource material included the interim recommendations of the Cardiovascular and Chemical Exposure Risks in Modern Firefighting Interim Report, and additional material for flash hood and glove exchange programs, drafted by FF John Ryan of the Health and Safety staff. The draft was discussed, and feedback provided. [Additional feedback and guidance was provided outside of the meeting, and a second draft is in progress, to be distributed via email prior to the 4th meeting of the committee.]

Discussions raised additional subjects of interest and concern, and identified additional ideas to be explored:

1. Doffing gear at scene for transport to stations - presently impractical. Need to develop a procedure through experimentation.
 - Suggestion: Initiate Pilot Programs, similar to Beta testing: One company at a time experiments with a procedure to test feasibility, and provide feedback.
 - Subjects to be investigated: How to avoid storing or wearing contaminated gear inside apparatus returning from an incident or training, how to avoid wearing contaminated gear in a rehab area between work assignments at an incident or training.
 - To be introduced at Officers meeting
2. Plan to add Boots, Helmet, gloves to the “second-set-of-gear” plan.
 - Suggestion: 5-10 year set exchange -> step down of front line gear to back up gear after 5 years in service.
 - To be referred to and considered further by Chief Trick and Capt. Theriault.
 - Also, concern expressed over personnel using gear not issued to them.
 - Suggestion: Re-instating back up gear at stations for use by personnel who are without gear for whatever reason.
 - If it fits, great, if not, out of luck.
 - User is responsible for care and laundering.
 - To be re-introduced at officer meeting.
3. Regarding exposures, current cancer bill requires tracking of members at incidents, salmon sign in sheet is likely adequate, but question was raised whether it is feasible to establish a tracking system – Entry into Burning buildings, training fires. Is it possible? Known Exposures to hazardous materials? Is tracking possible? How would this be done? Question to be addressed to IT for possible Firehouse record-keeping.
4. Respiratory Exposure versus Gear Exposure and Decon needs to be addressed in the CMP, respiratory protection not in the current draft. [It is noted subsequent to the meeting that there

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Health and Safety Committee

is limited current departmental policy regarding operational respiratory protection on emergency scenes]

5. Gross Decon (scene – hose and brush) versus Complete Decon (Station – laundry and scrubbing)
-Mitigating stop at station? To be incorporated into second draft of CMP.
 6. Culture change away from the “salty look” - A philosophical shift –
 - Burned and melted helmets must be discarded
 - soiled turnouts must be laundered
 - tattered turnouts must be exchanged
 - Everyone should have the “Newbie” look
 - Dirty turnouts must be considered contaminated turnouts and must not be tolerated
 - To be reinforced through officer meeting and culture change
 - -monthly gear check - re-institute
 7. The process for laundering gear was also reviewed, and the possibility and value of contracting out for gear laundering discussed. To be considered further in alternate forum.
- iv. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 20:15, with next meeting planned for January-February to continue the old business of the 2nd meeting of the committee, and finalize the CMP.