



**MINUTES OF THE
SECOND FIRE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2019**

DATE: March 28, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office, Edmonton

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
Michael Bos, Chair
Cameron Bardas
Allan Blatz
Joe Davis
Robbin Foxcroft, Vice Chair South
Mark Heiderich
Cammie Laird
Hunter Langpap
Gary Mayorchak, Vice Chair North
Mario Poser
Jim Robinson
Mark Royer
Stephen Suen
Chris Taylor

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach, Jane Sukharukava

GUEST: Rick Gratton (BSC Liaison)

REGRETS: Grace O'Brien

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sandi Orr

2019 MEETINGS: May 14, 2019, September 26, 2019, November 14, 2019

1. Meeting Opening

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:00 a.m. A round table introduction was held. It was explained that government representatives are not permitted at public meetings until after the elections.

1.1. Agenda Adoption

Any outstanding items relating to AMA, listed in the last minutes, will be added to the action list for future updates. [Council Administration]

Joseph Davis / Gary Mayorchak moved to adopt the agenda, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2. Adoption of January 24, 2019 Minutes

Robbin Foxcroft / Mario Poser moved to adopt the minutes of January 24, 2019, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Building Sub-Council Liaison

It was explained that Chris Taylor will attend the majority of meetings, but it would be preferred if a back-up was available in the event Chris is unable to attend a Building Sub-Council meeting.

Joseph volunteered to be an alternate liaison. Mario volunteered to be back up to Joseph if needed.

Chris Taylor / Robbin Foxcroft moved to appoint Joseph Davis and Mario Poser as the alternate Building Sub-Council Liaisons; CARRIED

2.2. Terms of Reference for the 'Micro' Breweries / 'Micro' Distilleries

The Terms of Reference for the 'Micro' Breweries / 'Micro' Distilleries Working Group was included in the portal and reviewed on screen.

It was reported that one of the Building Sub-Council recommendations was to include a representative from the Alberta Craft Distillers Association. The association put forth two nominees. The Fire Sub-Council recommended that both representatives be appointed. It was questioned regarding a need for additional Edmonton fire representation and clarified that Hunter Langpap represents career firefighters. It was also explained that the working group reports to both sub-councils with recommendations, as they have no ability to make decisions.

The following recommendations for changes were provided:

- Matrix to include 2 representatives from Alberta Craft Distillers Association
- Profesional was corrected to read Professional

Cameron Bardas / Robbin Foxcroft moved to adopt the Terms of Reference for the ‘Micro’ Breweries / ‘Micro’ Distilleries Working Group, with the update to the matrix and spelling correction; CARRIED

The Council will bring forward the recommended changes to the Building Sub-Council.

[Council Administration]

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Qualified Persons Registry (E.2.06.11)	Communicate status of registry	Nov 23/16	Orr	No update available
2.	Learnings from Grenfell Tower Fire	Ask whether findings of evaluation of high rises in the City of Edmonton may be shared with the FSC once complete UPDATE: Cameron Bardas will provide a presentation on their risk assessment tool at the next meeting.	Sep 14/17	Bardas	No update available
3.	Code Adoption and Training	Look into possibility of drafting a brief statement for AUMA and RMA so they understand there will be no financial impacts to them with the upcoming code adoption as mandatory code update training will not be required.	Sep 13/18	Laird/Royer	RMA and AUMA representatives will work together on a statement to take back to their organizations rather than a formal response from the sub-council. Complete – remove from action list.
4.	Building Code as it Relates to Fire Code Presentation	The proposed presentation will be condensed to only those items applicable to the fire discipline and will be posted in the Member Portal. UPDATE: A three-column document was included in the portal as information	Sep 13/18	Parker	Complete – remove from action list.
5.	Escape Rooms	It was suggested that research be conducted to see if anything is anticipated from the national level (NFPA or CSA Standard).	Jan 24/19	Parker	No update available

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Occupant Load Working Group Report

Building Sub-council members have been added to the working group and a report will be provided at the next meeting.

4.2. BSC Liaison Report

The following report was provided on topics of discussion by the Building Sub-Council:

- Don Dessario has reached the end of his term and is not eligible for reappointment
- Andrew Smith was elected as the new BSC Chair
- Occupant Load Working Group Terms of Reference approved and representatives from BSC identified
- Digital Plans Submissions and processes to ensure the validity of the Engineer's Stamp
- Issues relating to acrylic stucco and the need to use approved "systems"
- Issues relating to tiny houses and how many of the features wouldn't meet the Building Code; discussions are being held whether they should be considered under Part 10; many have an RV-type label on them
- Issues relating to the use of escalators as stairs when shut down for maintenance because the escalator must be barricaded when not operating; BOMA Edmonton and BOMA Calgary will be having a meeting in April to discuss the issues; an overview was provided on what Ontario has done because some subway stations do not have stairs
- AMA has been asked to revisit the STANDATA on fixed ladders for roof access

4.3. TCC Report

The following report was provided on topics of discussion by the Technical Coordinating Committee:

- The use of escalators was brought forward as a multi-discipline concern
- A thorough report was provided from the former Chair of the Pressure Equipment Sub-Council on ice rinks using ammonia refrigerants and further work continues by the Power Engineers Working Group within the Pressure Equipment Sub-Council
- A report was provided regarding the Annual Internal Reviews; presentation is available on the portal in the TCC Meeting Folder
- An overview was provided of issues in the gas discipline relative to Chemtane 2 Concentrate. Reference was made to the SDS for Chemtane 2 available on their website at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bbd542b9d41492a1be0cc96/t/5beee3a0032be412b050570b/1542382496469/SDS+Chemtane2+Concentrate+2018+USA.pdf>

The Pressure Equipment Sub-Council has asked for feedback from the FSC on the approved motion from the Power Engineers Working Group regarding refrigeration plant recommendations:

David Miller / Izak Roux moved that the Pressure Equipment Sub-Council accept the Power Engineers Working Group proposal that the following short-term recommendations be forwarded to the Fire, Electrical, Building and Plumbing sub-councils for information and if the feedback is acceptable then this recommendation should be taken to the Technical Coordinating Committee as a motion during the fall session.

- 1. For owners of ammonia refrigeration plants > 10kW, who have an ABSA approved integrity program for the operation of pressure equipment, these refrigeration systems need to fall under this program to ensure both adequate operation and maintenance of these systems is performed.**
- 2. For owners who do not have an ABSA approved integrity program for the operation of pressure equipment then AB-615 should become mandatory and not a guideline. AB-615 is a simple but effective document that outlines the basic requirements of operating a mechanical refrigeration system containing ammonia. One addition to AB-615 that is recommended is that any time the refrigerant is found in the brine or when the refrigerant equipment fails and releases the refrigerant to the atmosphere this must then be reported to an ABSA SCO and a monitoring and repair plan must be put into place immediately. For the short term this would not mandate any specific certification or supervision requirements for the operation of these facilities and it is something that all owners could implement in a short time period with minimal impact to their operations.**

And to revise AB-615 to include the following:

- 5 i) Perform pressure equipment integrity inspection at a minimum every 5 years**
- 7 d) Report any leak in the pressure equipment, including evidence of ammonia in the brine, to an ABSA SCO; CARRIED**

A video summarizing the findings of Work Safe BC's incident investigation was shown.

Discussion surrounding the incident and motion included:

- the dangers of silencing an alarm was emphasized
- the video reports that the workers did not have personal monitors on them, however it is believed that firefighters don't typically either but would have other protective equipment on
- it was questioned what might have occurred after the fatalities and what the first responders did to ensure their safety
- there could be different approaches and experiences between firefighters in major municipalities compared with volunteer firefighters in smaller communities
- concern was expressed regarding the enforceability of AB-615 and clarified that the PESCC recommends that the guideline become mandatory
- this incident was related to maintenance, not code requirements pertaining to installation
- the fire discipline has preventative maintenance requirements (e.g. fire alarms inspected annually, etc.) and it was questioned whether a similar regime could be conducted for plants where these types of chillers are being used to ensure the appropriate maintenance is being done

- It was recognized that more awareness in smaller communities about the risks and dangers is critical. In the case of Fernie, the city workers told the firefighters it was under control and they were no longer needed.
- The First Edition of CAN/ULC-S588:2017—Standard for Gas and Vapour Detectors and Sensors, Including Accessories is now available. It was questioned how this could be referenced in Alberta Codes and clarification was provided regarding the harmonization with National Codes.
- It was further reported that OH&S has cited at least 7 violations relating to the Fernie incident and it is believed that more information will be coming forward in the future. Relative to the PESC recommendations, concern was expressed that 5 years between inspections was too long. One OH&S violation was the lack of an annual review of emergency procedures and it was questioned whether it could be addressed through that.

It was suggested that a Pressure Equipment Sub-Council and/or ABSA representative be available at a future meeting to allow the opportunity for further clarification. [Council Administration]

4.4. Council Updates

The following report was provided:

- The conference is coming up from May 29-31, invitations have been sent, please register as quickly as possible
- Gas is the feature discipline at the conference
- Solar PV course for SCOs during the conference on Wednesday
- Starting in September 2019, agendas will be posted 2 weeks in advance of the meeting
- Members to submit agenda items 3 weeks in advance

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Meeting and Agenda Feedback

A round table discussion was held to report on work being done or issues in the discipline:

- Concern was expressed that the Fire Code will be in force on April 1, 2019 while the code is not yet available. It was noted that the six month transition period will be extended.
- Challenges finding evaluators for training and exams for practical courses.
- An invitation will be sent out to the sub-council members for the upcoming CFAA Annual Technical Seminar on April 9th at NAIT.
- NFPA training in Lethbridge has been well supported.
- ULC documents are now online in a readable only format no charge at: <https://www.shopulstandards.com/Account/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fProductDetail.aspx%3fUniqueKey%3d26638%26ShowFreeviewModal%3d1>
- It was questioned regarding which standards are referenced in the new code because there is uncertainty about what new documents might be needed.
- Concerns were expressed regarding continuing issues with workmanship for maintenance of fire suppression equipment.

- Recent Canadian Fuels meeting discussions included cannabis in the workplace and process safety practices.
- Concerns and challenges relating to the fire code now referencing the secondary suite requirements in the building code rather than being included directly in the fire code.
- City of Calgary is eager for a STANDATA on mobile fueling issues
- Lack of OFC involvement at sub-council meetings was a concern but it was recognized that OFC information will be brought forward through the Fire Administrator
- Having some challenges with Council Connect and this was addressed offline

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at the Council office.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:35 a.m.

--- NEW ACTION ITEMS ---

1.1. Agenda Adoption

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4.3. TCC Report

It was suggested that an ABSA representative be available at a future meeting to allow the opportunity for further clarification. [Council Administration]

--- MOTIONS ---

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