

# **Department of Fire Services**

**\* Special Operations \***

**\* Hazardous Materials Response \***

**\* Massachusetts State Police \***

**Fire Investigation Unit**

**HDU / Bomb Squad**

**\* Fire Mobilization \***

# Special Operations



- DFS Special Operations Group
  - 50 members divided in 3 response teams
    - Southeast
    - North/Central
    - West
  - Drivers, Operators, and Technicians
  - Members respond with unit to operate the vehicle and the technology in support of the IC



# Special Operations

Special Operations Group can provide the following assistance:

- Enhance Incident Communication
- Firefighter Rehab Support
- Portable Inflatable Tent
- Command Support Functions
- Portable Lighting
- Other Logistical Support

# ISU 1 - Stow



# ISU 2 - Easthampton



# Unified Command Post





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# Who Pays for a Response?



- There is **NO** cost to any community for a response
- The Department of Fire Services is committed to helping out any community in their time of need
- If any event is reimbursable through state or federal funds, or for Hazardous Materials response with a responsible party, then associated costs will be billed to the responsible party



# Types of Responses

- Fires
- Searches
- Hazardous Materials
- Fire Investigations
- Pre-planned events
- Natural disasters
- Request from the Fire Service to support a large scale event





# Considerations for Activation

- Call early
  - Consider travel time of vehicle
  - Routes of travel
    - Height of vehicle (REHAB 13'2" and ISU 11'10")
    - Weight of vehicle (GVW 54,000)
    - Length of Vehicle 40'
- Placement on scene
  - Hose layouts
  - Away from hazards
  - On a firm surface
  - For the ISU – no buildings or obstructions for satellite dish facing south

# How Do You Activate a Team?



- For immediate response, call MEMA at 508-820-2000
- For scheduled events, call the Special Ops Office at 978-567-3171

## Department of Fire Services Incident Support Unit (ISU) Activation Procedure



The Department of Fire Services' Incident Support Unit is now available to support the Fire Service in the Commonwealth.

To request response from the unit, please call MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) at the Framingham Headquarters, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at:

**508-820-2000**

You will be asked the following:

- City, Town or Agency requesting the unit
- Contact name and phone number
- Nature of the incident
- Exact location for the Vehicle to stage

A phone call will be returned with the Status and ETA of the unit and team.



# How Can the ISU Help?

- Communications
  - On – Scene
  - Create and implement a communication plan
  - Activate additional portable radios
- Tracking Incidents
  - On Board Log
  - Photos
  - Command Post
  - Meeting Area
  - Operations





# What Comes with the ISU?

- Driver
- Technicians
- 1 – 3 Operators
- All available resources of DFS and other state agencies



# Outside Operations



# Conference Room



# Operations Room



# Satellite Dish & Smart Board



**Internet Connection**  
**Sending On-Scene Images**

**Plasma screen allows images to be drawn or written over and saved, as well as a large screen monitor for command viewing of incidents.**



# Clocks & Video equipment



- \* All pertinent equipment has clocks that are synchronized for logging purposes

- \* Video Router
- \* Microwave Link
- \* Direct TV
- \* VHS Recorders
- \* HD Recorders
- \* All images can be shown on any monitor in or outside the truck



# Downlink from State Police Helicopter



# Computer Network & Phone system



- \* Office style phone system
- \* Works with cell & hard-wired phone lines
- \* All lines are recorded



Computer network set up for four fixed and mobile stations as well as color and laser printer



# Radios



- \* 14 mobile radios
- \* Low band up to 800 trunking
- \* All fire frequencies are pre-programmed
- \* Others can be done on site as needed
- \* Both digital and analog compatible
- \* All radios are recorded
- \* Cross patching capabilities



\* 50 portable units programmed to the state's 800 MHz system

# Rehab Unit



- 19 Seats for rehabilitation
- Liquid replenishment and snack foods
- Climate control



# Incident Support Trailer (IST)





## What Will it Do?

- Self-sufficient unit
- Remote repeater operations
- Small operations room
- Cache of portable radios
- Generally pre-planned events



## Self Supporting Trailer

- Quiet On-board Generator
- Lighting Unit



# 50' Antenna Tower



- \* Heaters
- \* Tents
- \* Tools
- \* Lighting
- \* Chairs



# Operations Room with HVAC



# Portable Operations



- 20' by 21' inflatable tent with heat, lights etc.
  - 10 minute setup time
  - Doors on both ends
  - Full interior wall dividers



# Portable Operations



# Lighting Trailers



# Quiet Whisper Power plants





# Hazardous Materials Response Division

# Hazardous Materials Regional Response



- Six regional teams provide uniform response statewide
- 18 regional response vehicles
- Industrial & transportation chemical emergencies
- Emergency response to terrorism
  - Analysis of threats
  - Response/Impact planning





# Tiered Response Levels

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- ◆ Tier One
  - ◆ Hazard & Risk Assessment
- ◆ Tier Two
  - ◆ Short Term Operations
- ◆ Tier Three
  - ◆ Long Term Operations
- ◆ Tier Four
  - ◆ Multiple Team Operations
- ◆ Tier Five
  - ◆ All Teams (WMD) Response

# Resources per Tier

Tier	Vehicles	Personnel
1	1 TOMs or Squad	5 Techs
2	1 TOMs and/or 1 Squad 1 ORU	16 Techs
3	1 TOMs and/or 1 Squad 1 – 2 ORU, TSU	30 – 45 Techs
4	As requested	As Requested
5	3 TOMs and 1-2 Squads 5 – 7 ORUs (Initial Response), TSU	90- 135 Techs (Initial Response)

# What You Need to Know

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- Requested Response Tier
- Incident Location
- Incident Description
  - Type of release
  - Chemical(s) if known
  - Size of Release
  - Casualties
- Staging Area for Team
- Contact information for IC

Don't guess at the chemical or product involved. There are millions of chemical compounds and a slight error in reporting can change the entire picture

# Tiered Response

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- The tiered response system is designed to provide the Incident Commander with the right tools.
- Responses do not have to start at “1.”
- The initial response can be at any level from 1 – 5 based upon need
- Tier 3 is always your fastest response as it does not activate by group. If a true emergency exists, (i.e. chemically contaminated casualties) a minimum Tier 3 should be requested

# Tier 1

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- Minimum Response of the team
- Tier 1 is defined as Hazard and Risk Assessment.
- It is also the response for a suspicious substance or package (bio-threat)
- Tier 1 does not (except for bio-threat) include entry into a hot zone.

# Tier 2

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- Limited Response
- Provide sufficient resources for short term entry operations, e.g.:
  - Metering to determine the presence of a release
  - Uncomplicated mitigation actions
  - Small release mitigation
- Response is part of one team and activated by groups that are either geographic or rotational in the district

# Tier 3

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- 1 Full Team Response
- Up to 45 Hazmat Technicians
- Fastest response as it activates the entire district team
- Long term, single operational period, operations
- Used when mitigation actions require multiple entries and/or operating conditions are extremely hazardous

# Tier 4

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- Multi-Team Response
- Not generally requested by I/C
- Usually used for expansion for multiple operational periods
- Managed by the team to request specific requirements (manpower, supplies, etc)
- If requested, be prepared to describe exact requirements to control center

# Tier 5

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- Full System Activation
- Based on WMD Scenario, but may be used in non-terrorism catastrophic release.
- 3 Teams respond directly, 3 go into active staging around the state
- Also adds Bomb Squad and Civil Support Team

# Hazardous Materials Regional Response



## Statewide Mass Decontamination System

- 92 Mass Decon Units
- 17 district decon companies
- 74 “hospital” decon companies
- 1 unit at DFS for training and support



# Hazardous Materials Regional Response



## Mass Decontamination Units

- Custom designed by the Massachusetts fire service
- High capacity for mass decon
- Can be used to support other fire service operations



# Hazardous Materials Counter-Terrorism Response Implementation of Strategies – Joint Hazard Assessment Team



- Hazmat/Bomb Squad Interface Team for Incidents involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive materials
- Combines expertise and capabilities for multi-threat scenarios
- Provide an integrated assessment/ mitigation capability where explosives and other hazardous materials present as concurrent threats
- Increase the safety for responders when faced with a mixed CBRNE hazard potential





**Massachusetts State Police**  
**Fire Investigation Unit**  
**&**  
**Hazardous Devices Unit**

# Fire Investigation Unit



Nationally certified  
accelerant and  
explosives detection  
canines



State's most experienced  
team of fire, arson, and  
explosion investigation  
teams

# Hazardous Devices Unit



Certified bomb technicians used in the investigation, removal, and disarming of suspicious packages and other explosive devices



# Hazardous Devices Unit



# Hazardous Devices Unit Response & Mitigation



## Improvised Explosive Device (IED)

### Equipment:

- Bomb Suits
- X-ray equipment
- Robots
- Response truck
- Post-blast investigation training
- Bomb detection K-9s



Investments from HLS funding



# **Massachusetts Fire and Ambulance Mobilization Plan**

**Executive Order #221  
Acts of 1950**

**Creation of a comprehensive  
fire mutual aid plan**





# Fire Mobilization Committee



**Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts has responsibility of maintaining and improving the Fire Mobilization Plan, its activation & use**

- \* Chief Edward O'Brien (Holbrook FD); Chairman**
- \* 4 Regional Fire Mobilization coordinators**
- \* Department of Fire Services member**
- \* MEMA member**



**For more information, contact:**

***The Department of Fire Services***

***PO Box 1025***

***State Road***

***Stow, Massachusetts 01775***

***Phone: 978-567-3171***

***Fax: 978-567-3229***



Thank You!