



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services

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CHAIRMAN

CHIEF MICHAEL MANSFIELD
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL
December 29, 2021
DRAFT**

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a hybrid meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public in the Boards and Commissions Room A101, at the Department of Fire Services, State Road, Stow, MA or WebEx videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Iain McGregor, Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe	Undersecretary for Homeland Security, EOPSS
Maribel Fournier	Deputy State Fire Marshal
Chief Michael Mansfield, Vice Chair	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Chief Kevin Nord	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Peter Jerusik	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Russell Lewis	Member of the Statewide Tech. Rescue Team

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

None

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Glenn Rooney, Legal Counsel	Department of Fire Services
David DiGregorio, Director	Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations
Korina Senior, Program Coordinator	Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations

OGR Employees in Attendance:

Sonya Schey, Program Manager	Office of Grants and Research
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Other Attendees

Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
Hazardous Materials Response • Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Robert J Pensivy
Daryl Springman
Jason Saunders

Region 4
Region 4
Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Iain McGregor, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:01 a.m. The Chairman introduced himself, followed by the introductions of the Council members, Department of Fire Services' employees, and public members in attendance.

2. Approval of November 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chief Michael Mansfield made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on November 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Russel Lewis. No discussion, unanimous roll call vote.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence.

None

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Training and Membership had a joint meeting. Focus on membership requirements and team size. Certification is not going to be required at this time for team membership. Each region has different size requirements due to land mass and call volume. January 13th each region will come back with recommended membership requirements and their regions membership size needs.
- b. Equipment – looking at disciplines for equipment needs to find out how many of each piece of equipment is needed based on the Alliance for SUSAR Teams.
- c. Policy – discussed policy format to use for all policies. The Safety Officer final draft was sent to the Counsel yesterday. Discussion regarding the reference of the state team in the Safety Officer Policy. The SOG is in reference to the state teams and does not require to local teams to follow the SOG. Vote is not required for format/template, a discussion is acceptable. Recommendations are decided on by the policy subcommittee and the Counsel votes on the Policy implementation. Add more in-depth discussion and vote on Safety Officer Policy for next meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Discuss D4H project.

No discussion, everyone is on board for the use of D4H.

6. New Business

a. Discuss regional funding.

Undersecretary Benincasa introduces Sonya Schey, Program Manager of OGR.

Ms. Schey mentions multiple funding opportunities for local fire services.

1. Automated External Defibrillator for Public Safety Program, AED application up to \$2,500 allowed for each municipality through January 14th.
2. Commonwealth Security Trust Fund Grant funding released every three years.
3. FEMA HLS Grant Program is the largest grant program. MA 23.3 million granted. 30% of the funding must be allocated in 5 areas
 - a. Enhancing cyber security
 - b. Enhancing soft targets and crowded places
 - c. Enhancing information and intelligence
 - d. Domestic Violence Extremism
 - e. Addressing emerging threats.
 - f. Remaining funds through THIRA and SPR

Discussion in a change in FEMA willingness to purchase equipment through the grant if it is needed. The HLS Councils are working on their plan. Each region has a program manager to oversee the daily operations. The state is looking to increase our funding. At 2005-2007 we were at \$63 million we are at 23 million in HLS funding now.

Recommend regions submit what they need now to their homeland security councils. Notices come out in February/March and have about 60 days to submit from the notice. Now is the time to submit funding requests. Showcase the need for Tech Rescue by providing the data and responses. Assignments are needed for the work to be completed.

b. Discuss data codes.

Proper MFIRS coding at the municipal level for specialty calls. Have DFS staff at the next meeting to discuss the difficulty or ease of the data codes for specialty calls and how the data could be skewed.

7. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

N/A.

8. Tasks/Assignments.

Looking for more work on data collection and coding and the grant process to identify which grants pertain to Tech Rescue. Initial start is to get the data from Daryl.

9. Future Agenda Items.

Items from today's meeting.

9. Determination of future meeting date(s).

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. following along with the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Chief Michael Mansfield made motion to adjourn. Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa seconded. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:56 a.m.