



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

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SECRETARY

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
 COORDINATING COUNCIL
 May 25, 2022
 APPROVED**

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a hybrid meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public virtually through WebEx videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Iain McGregor, Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Chief Michael Mansfield, Vice Chair	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe	Undersecretary for Homeland Security, EOPSS
Peter Ostroskey	State Fire Marshal
Chief Matthew Belsito	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Vacancy	Representing the Technical Rescue Team

DES Employees in Attendance:

John H. Dean, Deputy General Counsel	Department of Fire Services
Maribel Fournier	Deputy State Fire Marshal
David Clemons	Director of Operations
David DiGregorio, Director	Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations
Korina Senior, Program Coordinator	Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations

Other Attendees

Mark McCabe	Region 1
Neil Tuepker	Region 1

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

Michael Pavone	Region 2
Francis Otting	Region 2
Alan Sirois	Region 4
Daryl Springman	Region 4

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Iain McGregor, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:05 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 April 27, 2022. Meeting Minutes

Chief Matt Belsito made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on April 27, 2022. The motion was seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa. Unanimous roll call vote.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence.

No Correspondence.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Chief Mansfield states the equipment subcommittee is still plugging away. Nothing to report for this meeting.
- b. Policy – No report from the Policy Subcommittee.
- c. Joint Subcommittee meeting with the Training and Membership Subcommittees. Still working on collecting data to justify team size based on MFIRS response, geographic, and population data. Looking at other state SUSAR divisions for guidance in member size, funding, and operations.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe Norfolk County acquired trailer and double stack boats. Process of putting in justifications for more training. Norfolk added 17 new members. Conduct training in SE Mass with other county teams and law enforcement.
- b. David DiGregorio: Can the regions add the responses to the reports?
- c. Region 2 – Completed an 80-hour Technical Rescue exercise held at moon island. Also held a water rescue exercise simulating a plane crash in the harbor using water manikins. Equipment used for the training includes the 11mm clutch, CMC G11 pro lifeline rope, new ASAP, and airbags with 150 PSI. Looking to acquire new clutches for some regions to replace old pencil IDs and ½” rope, upgrade to airbags with 150 PSI, and WASP detectors for motion.
 - Incidents:
 1. Fatal MBTA Building collapse in March.
 2. Edison Power Plant rescue that took several hours to rescue an individual.

- Members In the past 5 months they have added roughly 60 additional tech rescue members to their companies.
- d. Region 3: Chief Belsito – Central Mass Region 3 conducted a structure collapse training in April. New trench rescue trailer put in service. Continue to train and apply for HLS funding. 1 possible incident in Sturbridge, the local fire department was able to perform the rescue without the team.
- e. Training - joint drill with Beverly Fire Dive Team. The dive team consists of Fire/Police and other members. July drill is a 1-day system failure. Use manikins with failures on July 28th at local building. Equipment - obtained a box truck. Chief Mansfield – 2 members went to Virginia to bring the truck back. They are outfitting it and building shelves and transferring supplies and equipment from the old truck to new. Has a tommy gate.

6. Old Business

a. **Data matrix recommendation from Policy Subcommittee.**

The subcommittee is Still working on getting this worked out.

b. **Discuss Homeland Security Project Justifications.**

Currently there is no funding setup for Tech Rescue. Discussion on which Committee would ask HLS for funds. To ask for funding the call volumes are needed to determine if teams may be combined and determine the assets needed. The HazMat funding comes from different resources. Tech Rescue needs to showcase data that the team is stressed from overuse and in need of equipment. The OGR has historically sent project justifications. Would the council or subcommittee group provide consistency and feedback to OGR and other funding councils. It is the Tech Rescue Council's responsibility to have a coordinated approach to create consistency throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

7. New Business

a. **Provide overview of Council for new members.**

The Tech Rescue Council Matrix was shared. Chair Iain McGregor explained the organization of the Council.

b. **Assign Membership Subcommittee chair.**

Item was added to the agenda in hopes that the vacant position was filled. Marshal Peter Ostroskey made a motion to table the agenda item until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Chief Matt Belsito. No discussion. Roll call vote was made unanimously.

c. **Tech Rescue Annual Report.**

This is listed in the legislation that we need to file every year. Financials would be included in this for future years. This report is due to Senate by June 30, 2022. We will need something ready to vote on at the next meeting. Provide a snapshot of where the council is and where the council is trying to go. Discussed how to complete the task in time. Can send around without discussion and can make small revisions at the meeting to be able to submit on time. Marshal is willing to work on the draft and distribute it to the members with a reminder to not reply all and only to staff to gather all the points for draft review at the June

29th meeting. The report will be a good template to comply with the statute and provide an update annually.

d. Discuss task, assignments, and benchmarks.

- **Response data.** Information is needed to determine what is needed.
- **Committee roster on DFS website.** Questions from Technicians regarding who is under the Council, Subcommittee and Steering Committees. Leave all contact information off the list. Just include the position and name. Any questions on how to contact the individual members can go through the website contact, Korina. Discussed not to include any personal contact information.

8. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair. None.

9. Future Agenda Items.

- a. **Tabled Subcommittee chair.**
- b. **Vote on annual report**
- c. **Policy Data Matrix**

10. Determination of future meeting date(s).

The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Chief Mansfield made a motion to adjourn. Marshal Ostroskey seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.