**Massachusetts Tech Rescue Policy/SOG Subcommittee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

**APPROVED Thursday, August 10, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Massachusetts Tech Rescue Policy/SOG Subcommittee was opened at 11:06 am by Chief Matthew Belsito, followed by introduction of the Council members.

Members in attendance remotely. Roll Call taken:

Paul Betti, Deputy Dir of Special Ops

Linda Crowley, DFS;

David Clemons, DFS;

Lt. Jonathan Martin-Auburn Fire

Deputy Chief David Randolph-Brookline Fire;

Chief Robert O’Brien-Hanson Fire;

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman-Sutton Fire

Daryl Springman – Northampton Fire

Cheryl Barker, Admin Sutton Fire, guest

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Chief Randolph to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Chief O’Brien and with no further discussion was passed by Roll Call Vote: Chief Belsito, yes; Dep Chief Randolph, yes; Chief O’Brien, yes; Lt Jon Martin, yes; David Clemons, yes and Paul Betti, yes. Daryl Springman abstained.

**Tech Rescue Policy/SOG Subcommittee Correspondence:**

Director Betti, none, Chief Belsito, none, Membership, none.

**Old Business:**

**Review of Old Items for SOG/SOP:**

**Tiered Response SOP/SOG**-Daryl Springman reported that he would be working on the Tiered Response SOP/SOG, possibly using the model that Chief Belsito received from the Training Committee. FF Springman stated that after the Swift Water incident that occurred this past Monday, he believes that there should be a Staging Level so that other teams would be prepared to mobilize if needed.

**Typing vs Tiered Response**-Chief O’Brien stated that he received documentation that indicated that MEMA would like the Tiered Policy to stay as close to the FEMA policy as possible, which uses a Typing vs a Tiered system. This way if a call went out for a Type II or Type III response, command and the responders would know the expertise and the equipment needed for the incident. Dave Clemons agreed. You would have to use Typing when a request is coming from out of state. Typing would require a specific number for manpower and equipment that would be needed for a specific type of incident. This would make justifying requests for funding irrefutable. Chief Randolph agrees. Director Betti asked if there is anything in writing anywhere that would specify what Typing is for a particular team. Chief O’Brien will get that information from FEMA and send it to Chief Belsito and Director Betti. Discussion on local level responses.

**What is the Council looking for?** Chief Belsito stated that this would go back to the letter that Chief Randolph sent to the Council on behalf of the SOP/SOG Subcommittee asking for feedback on submittals, additional SOP/SOGs

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that need to be developed, is there an official definition for State Technical Rescue and the need to change Legislation so that funding can be released update or change incident reporting to the State.

After a lengthy discussion, all agreed that having District, Regional and a State team would be redundant. The regional teams would use their manpower for the State Team. It would be best to follow Fed guidelines and build the teams from there. If the teams are going to go to FEMA for funding, they should follow FEMA guidelines.

Discussion: on the breakdown of the Type System within the FEMA guidelines. For smaller incidents on a more local level there is the possibility of creating lesser Types.

The committee will make sure that all regions are okay with these changes.

Director Betti will be reviewing all SOP/SOGs submittal to date to see if any of them need to be changed to reflect this discussion.

**New Business**

**Additional Discussion**:

* Chief Belsito asked the Council how far they wanted the Committee to go.
* The question of what specifically is a Technical Rescue call is still up in air.
* Director Betti stated that the Council has not really said how far the Committee should go. For now, he would be cleaning up the One Drive. He asks who had the actual documents that were submitted to the Council. The Director stated he would do some work with Iain to clean things up and finalize others.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

**Adjourn:**

Chief Randolph made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lt. Martin. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote:

Chief Belsito, yes; Dep Chief Randolph, yes; Chief O’Brien, yes; Lt Jon Martin, yes; David Clemons, yes and Director Paul Betti, yes and Daryl Springman, yes.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon. Minutes prepared by Cheryl Barker