



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
 Department of Fire Services
 Massachusetts Technical Rescue
 Coordinating Council*

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**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
 COORDINATING COUNCIL
 October 29, 2019
 (Approved by Council January 28, 2020)**

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Fire Services, Boards and Commissions Room, Stow, Massachusetts.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

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| Chief Kevin Nord | Fire Chiefs Association of Mass. |
| Iain McGregor | Professional Fire Fighters of Mass. |
| Jennifer Roedel | Chief of Staff, EOPSS |
| Peter Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal | Department of Fire Services |
| Chief Michael Mansfield | Fire Chiefs Association of Mass. |
| Peter Jerusik | Professional Fire Fighters of Mass. |
| Santiago Lasas, Representative | Member of the Statewide Technical Rescue |
| Team | |

Absent at the meeting were the following Commission members:

None

DFS Employees in Attendance:

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| Maribel Fournier, Deputy State Fire Marshal | Department of Fire Services |
| Steven Rourke, Esq. | DFS General Counsel and Legal Counsel to the TRCC |
| David Clemons, Director of Operations | Department of Fire Services |
| David DiGregorio, Director | Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations |
| Korina Senior, Program Coordinator | Hazardous Materials Response and Special Operations |

Other Attendees

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| Samantha Phillips, Director | Mass. Emergency Management Agency |
| Mike Russas, Chief of Response & Field Services | Mass. Emergency Management Agency |
| Kevin Stanton, Executive Director | Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Research, EOPSS |

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Kevin Nord, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:06 a.m. The Chairman introduced himself, followed by the introductions of the Council members and Department of Fire Services’ employees in attendance.

2. Approval of September 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chairman, Chief Nord made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on September 19, 2019. The motion was seconded by Chief Mansfield. Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was approved by unanimous vote of the Council.

3. New Business

Before moving to the next agenda item, Chairman Nord requested clarification on Chapter 217 of the Acts of 2018, specifically how the acquisition of equipment and funding will work with the TRCC now that it is under DFS and whether regional teams who bill for incidents, can be paid back directly for their responses.

Attorney Rourke advised that the TRCC is the main body intended to receive and distribute any funds that are received either from grants or other sources. Furthermore, Attorney Rourke indicated that in order to organize the program as a statewide response, flexibility would be needed to be able to shift assets where they are needed throughout the state, which is why it is important for all regional teams to be part of this organization. In reference to bill and cost recovery, Attorney Rourke indicated that the TRCC will need to create the cost recovery mechanisms and will then distribute the funds to the teams. Marshal Ostroskey states the Council is to provide overall coordination of the regions regarding standards, rules, and procedures.

Chairman Nord also discussed whether the TRCC would have any control or authority on the development of the training facility intended for Bridgewater. Director DiGregorio indicated that the agency as a whole, follows the best practices laid out in NFPA standards. By way of example, Director DiGregorio indicated that the Hazmat Advisory Board advises the Marshal on their specific expertise needs. Director DiGregorio indicated that the Marshal is the agency head

and operational aspects are the responsibility of DFS, while the policy, with respect to certain aspects of the TRCC, falls under the control of the TRCC.

During discussions a question arose regarding the Urban Search and Rescue Team and whether Federal call outs can be activated as statewide or Federal response, and the costs associated with such responses. Director Phillips from MEMA indicated that the TRCC and its members would remain a statewide asset until MEMA enables them to be Federally Mobilized. Massachusetts Task Force 1 is funded by MEMA and their standards would follow Mass Task Force 1 requirements. Director Phillips indicated that MEMA works with support partners to determine needs and indicated that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would pay for any costs until such time as a response is federalized. Attorney Rourke also indicated that the legislation does not have any provisions where the Trust fund can be used to pay for outside response.

Additional discussion was had regarding the purpose of the TRCC and funding mechanisms. The TRCC is intended to provide oversight and policy to distribute the assets. Specifically, any grants or money received would be funneled through the TRCC rather than the individual teams. At this time, the TRCC still needs to establish what the vision is and how the teams will work. It is further anticipated that regional technical rescue teams will have ability to get funding, though it should be direct through the trust fund. However, at this time, there is no money in the trust fund to maintain operations. The TRCC was advised that at this time, regional teams can continue to obtain alternate funding from HLS councils.

a. **Discuss the vision of Technical Rescue across the Commonwealth.**

A broader discussion was held regarding the vision statement for the TRCC, including how the TRCC should be at the top of all technical rescue teams, leading the way with information, guidance, and financial support. Council members agreed that geographical areas need to be discussed, in addition to the standardization of policies and procedures to ensure consistent operations and training throughout the program. It was decided that Chairman Nord will work with Director DiGregorio to create a vision statement.

In addition, the topic of training was also discussed, including the need for annual refresher training for all technical rescue teams. Marshal Ostroskey mentioned that the TRCC should be thinking about what should the training look like. Specifically, if we identify the costs of backfill, etc., it may be possible to get funding for the training costs. In addition, the Marshal mentioned that the TRCC would have to look at the expansion program expense from the academy offering so that the TRCC would know the standards we are developing to, who will attend, how many people. From there, the TRCC can look at funding streams and where the money can come from for maintenance training. The regional teams need to be established before we can put a cost on the training. The Marshal reiterated his strong support for identifying funding for DFS Staff to assist the council.

b. **DFS Staff**

The discussion then moved to what the makeup of each team will look like.

Council needs to decide what work needs to be completed. Once projects are identified, DFS can hire a contractor with specific tech rescue expertise to focus on those projects. Chairman Nord made a motion to table the DFS Staff needs for a future meeting. Chief Mansfield seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

c. Discuss adopting NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue. (see new business item d)

d. Discuss adopting NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications.

Agenda items c and d were combined during the meeting. Chief Mansfield made a motion to adopt NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents and NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications. A discussion on the impact of adopting the standards and their impact on teams and team members was then held. Mr. McGregor offered an amendment to the Motion that the TRCC utilize NFPA as a roadmap for guidelines moving forward to develop the teams and to work towards the NFPA standards as their goal. Chief Mansfield approved amendment made by Mr. McGregor. The amended Motion was seconded by Marshal Ostroskey. No discussion. Unanimous vote in favor of the Motion.

e. Discuss the formation of steering committees and distribution of existing regional map.

Chairman Nord believes the boundary maps should be sent out to the regions. Director DiGregorio begins the discussion with the history of the mapping coming from the stakeholders initially. Attorney Rourke mentions the Marshal, PFFM and FCAM need to agree and the Secretary is left with sole digression. Chief of Staff Jennifer Roedel recommends inviting the stakeholders to the next meeting and limiting them to the time they may speak or have them turn in a letter addressing their map boundary concerns.

Motion made by Chief Mansfield to table this issue until we have the ability to hear testimony. Chief Nord seconded the motion to open topic for discussion. Motion was then withdrawn by Chief Mansfield.

New motion made by Chief Nord send map to regional teams as well as fire district chiefs and to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. New motion seconded by Chief Mansfield. No discussion. Unanimous vote in favor of the Motion.

Chief Nord moves on to the discussion about steering committees. The Marshal believes it's premature. Chief Nord makes a motion to table, which is seconded by Chief Mansfield.

4. **Old Business**

- a. Review surveys template distributed to District Leaders.

Discussed the teams can submit what they have and the detail for the surveys will be gathered in the future.

5. **Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair**

None.

6. **Future Agenda Items**

TRCC will vote on map boundaries after the map is shared with stakeholders. In addition, a vision and mission statement for the Council will need to be established. TRCC will also discuss the survey responses received from the regional teams.

7. **Determination of Future Meeting Dates**

The Council will meet once a month for now on the last Tuesday of the month. Due to the Firefighter of the Year Award ceremony, the next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Boards and Commissions Room at DFS.

Chief Mansfield made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Iain McGregor. Motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous vote of the Board at approximately 11:50 a.m. Meeting adjourned.