

Massachusetts Tech Rescue Policy/SOG Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 1100
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

A Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams of the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Policy/SOG Sub-Committee was opened at 1100 hour, with a quorum, by Chairman Chief Matthew Belsito.

Agenda #5. New Business:

1. Policies/SOG's and 2. Con Ops Document

Chief Belsito advised that he would be taking SOP's out of order as shown in the agenda, to give Lt. Martin, who is on shift, the opportunity to present his SOPs to the meeting. Lt. Martin advised that all final changes to the SOP's presented at the last meeting had been completed by the end of said meeting. Deputy Director Paul Betti should have the updated documents. Deputy Director Paul Betti is bringing the documents up on the screen. Deputy Director Paul Betti stated that Team Leaders were added to the Organizational Chart, Quartermaster would be eliminated from the chart and this Committee would take another look at Con Ops.

-Council will be reviewing Con Ops.

-FF Daryl Springman asked if this Committee should hold on Con Ops until the Council has edited and approved a new version.

-Deputy Director Paul Betti advised that this could take a while.

-Should this Committee proceed with SOP's and when the Council finishes w/Con Ops this Committee could make changes to any SOP affected by an new Con Ops document.

-Chief Belsito stated that all the SOP's are fluid with changes/rewrites made as needed.

-A notation could be made on SOP's stating that when Con Ops has been revised, affected SOP's would be reviewed and changed if necessary.

-Questions: Will the members of MTRCC be willing to review and make necessary changes to the Con Ops document. Was the Con Ops document actually adopted by the Council? Deputy Director Paul Betti will review past minutes to establish if Con Ops was ever adopted.

-Chief Belsito and FF Daryl Springman agree that this committee could at least a start to approve and push those SOP's that have been kicked around for a while up to the Council, adding a notation that once Con Ops is finalized this SOP could potentially be changed to reflect relevant revisions.

-Chief Belsito read the actual Steering Committee charge from the Con Ops document. He stated that what is currently being done does not match the charge of the Steering Committee in the Con Ops document. With regards to the Steering Committees, they've got members who are not going to meetings. How are they supposed to do what they are charged to do if they aren't attending meetings? The Con Op -

-FF Daryl Springman feels the Con Op document needs to be gutted and the Steering Committees' charge needs to be revised.

-LT. Martin stated that it needs to be clear statewide how the Steering Committees are to operate, once this happens the Steering Committees would have to represent.

-The only change to the Membership Model when the Teams are a State Entity would be that the MTRCC would be changed to the MTR Advisory Council. The only duty to change would be voting. Deputy Director Paul Betti will get a determination from Jeff.

-Question: It seems like Team Leaders are presently running the show, how would we get the other Chiefs to participate.

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Agenda #5. New Business:

1. Policies/SOG's and 2. Con Ops Document

SOG-103 is before the committee.

The question is whether we finalize it now or later.

Deputy Chief David Randolph stated that the Committee has moved SOP's forward in the past in the interest of time, he recommends that the Committee move this SOP forward.

Motion: FF Daryl Springman moved to push this SOP forward adding the notation as discussed. The motion was 2nd by Deputy Director Paul Betti. Further discussion from FF Daryl Springman that knowing that there would probably be changes to this SOP in the future. With all in favor the motion carried. Roll: Deputy Director Betti-yes; Lt. Martin-yes; FF Daryl Springman-yes; Deputy Chief David Randolph-yes; Chief Belsito-yes.

Deputy Director Paul Betti will put this SOP on the next MTRCC meeting. This will be a hybrid meeting. FF Daryl Springman stated that there needs to be a discussion on funding. FF Springman advised that they would soon be without funding and the Western Team will be in trouble. FF Daryl Springman was advised that this is for the Legislation. It would depend on what comes out of the budget revisions.

SOP 102-Code of Conduct is done.

Lt. Martin stated that he waited on this one because he wanted the Committee to have time to read through it. Would this be superseded by any DFS Code of Conduct SOPs?

FF Daryl Springman stated that a line could be added stating that once the Teams are a DFS entity, the DFS Code of Conduct would apply. When the State takes control of Tech Rescue, the Team Members become agents of the State.

Deputy Director Paul Betti would like to compare DFS's Code of Conduct SOP with Lt. Martin's SOP.

-Lt. Martin asked if there was a specific order that the Committee wanted the SOP's done in.

FF Daryl Springman advised that he has one that wasn't listed that he has been working on, it refers back to accepted practices. Chief Belsito advised that this was OK.

Motion: Deputy Director Paul Betti moved to approve SOP 102 adopting that the Committee would approve with edits. Seconded by Lt. Jon Martin. With all in favor the motion carried. Roll: Deputy Director Betti-yes; Lt. Martin-yes; FF Daryl Springman-yes; Deputy Chief David Randolph-yes; Chief Belsito-yes.

Deputy Chief David Randolph asked if he happens to pick an SOP off the list, would he just email the Committee of that decision. He was advised to send an email to Chief Belsito and Deputy Director Betti and they would distribute to the Committee members.

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Agenda Item #1-Introductions:

Roll Call of Meeting Attendees- Members in attendance remotely:

Matthew Belsito, Council Rep/Fire Chief -Sutton

Paul Betti, Deputy Director of Special Operations, DFS

David Randolph, Deputy Chief-Brookline/Region 2 Rep

Jon Martin, Lieutenant-Auburn/Region 3 Rep

Daryl Springman, Firefighter-Northampton/Region 4 Rep

Kerri Marcot, Guest-DFS Admin for HazMat/Spec Ops & Rescue

Cheryl Barker, Guest-Sutton Fire Admin

Deputy Chief David Randolph-Present; FF Daryl Springman-Present; Lt. Jon Martin-Present; Deputy Director Paul Betti-Present; Chief Belsito-Present

Agenda Item #2-Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Deputy Director Paul Betti moved to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2025 meeting as written. The motion was seconded and with no further discussion passed unanimously.

Roll: Lt. Martin-Yes; FF Daryl Springman-yes; Deputy Chief David Randolph-Yes; Deputy Director Paul Betti-yes; Chief Belsito-yes.

Agenda Item #3-Tech Rescue Correspondence:

Chief Belsito reports none. Deputy Director Paul Betti reports only the SOP documents from Lt. Jon Martin.

Agenda Item #4-Old Business:

a) Updates w/Membership and Training Committee

The training Committee has put the Training Matrix on the agenda.

The membership Committee finished the membership application.

b) Vetting Process-Deputy Director Paul Betti reported that the Scoring Matrix that he had built as an aid has not received approval from the Council yet, but if there was interest shown he would move it to another program.

c) D4H-Deputy Director Betti is still waiting for Maribel. They are still working on how it would be implemented.

e) EMAC-nothing has moved forward. Chief Burke advised that they were building the team. They would broker the meeting themselves.

f) Pilot Program-no updates.

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Agenda Items #6-Additional Matters:

Deputy Director Paul Betti advised that at yesterday's meeting of the Task Force there was discussion on the overlap of Task Force members and District Team members.

- Deputy Director Paul Betti asked that Teams inform him of how all teams would be affected by such a deployment.

- District 7 will compile a list of any membership overlap.

- Deputy Director Betti asked when the Task Force I was deployed, how many deployed were part of the State Task Force?

- Region 5 uses D4H for that information. They can mark not available so everyone is aware of those that are/are not available.

- FF Daryl Springman will send that info to Deputy Director Betti.

- Deputy Director Paul Betti would appreciate it if everyone could get that info to him.

Agenda Item #8-Future Meeting:

Scheduled for March 18, 2025 at 1100 am. Deputy Director Betti will post.

Motion to Adjourn: As there are no other matters before the Committee, FF Daryl Springman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Deputy Chief David Randolph and with no further discussion, passed unanimously.

Roll: Deputy Chief David Randolph-yes; Lt. Martin-yes; FF Daryl Springman-yes; Deputy Director Paul Betti-yes; Chief Matthew Belsito-yes.

Meeting adjourned at: