

Massachusetts Tech Rescue Policy/SOG Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 11:13 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

A Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams of the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Policy/SOG Subcommittee was opened at 1113, with a quorum by Chairman Chief Matthew Belsito.

Members in attendance remotely. Roll Call taken:

Matthew Belsito, Fire Chief -Sutton

Paul Betti, Deputy Director of Special Operations, DFS

Barry Aptt, Deputy Chief

Jon Martin, Lieutenant-Auburn

Robert O'Brien, Deputy Chief, Hanson

David Randolph, Deputy Chief, Brookline

Daryl Springman, Firefighter, Northampton

Cheryl Barker, Guest-Sutton

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the **August 20, 2024** meeting. The motion was seconded and with no further discussion passed unanimously. Roll Call Vote Taken; Betti-yes; Aptt-yes; Martin- yes; O'Brien-yes, Randolph-yes; Springman-yes; Belsito-yes.

3. MTR SOP Subcommittee Correspondence: Mr. Betti reported he was in receipt of only those documents related to postings and agendas, which have been distributed to the membership.

4. OLD BUSINESS: Discussion-

1.Revising and Prioritizing SOG's:

With regards to the five policies taken from DFS should this Committee push these policies to the Council as a blanket policy? Chief Belsito asked if we would have to go through the Council to add the policies that we pull from DFS to our existing policies? Mr. Betti will check with Glenn, Council's attorney to see if we must forward those policies to Council for approval.

1.A-Tiered Response:

FF Springman apologized that he was unable to access the files at this time. He also stated that he was not quite sure exactly what the Committee was looking for.

-Lt Martin asked if the Committee needed to draft something to work off of.

-Mr. Bette stated that their concern was with the overlapping of the terminology used. In the event of an incident could there be confusion as to which Team was activated/responding/transmitting Tech vs HazMat. Early conversation was whether or not Tech would be open to changing "Tiering" to something else. Mr. Betti suggested looking back to the Membership and Training Subcommittee draft document titled MTRCC ACTIVATION TIER SYSTEM-DISPATCH DRAFT. He will share what he has from the M&T Subcommittee. He remembers talking about it but does not believe there was ever a decision made.

-Chief O'Brien stated that this will make a difference with FEMA.

-Mr. Betti also remembers conversations regarding Team Size, which came up during Budget conversations. He will check to see if it was voted on and sent up.

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4. OLD BUSINESS: Discussion-

1.b-Vetting Process and Organization Chart

- Going back through the minutes, Mr. Betti found that FF Springman was working on Vetting.
 - Chief O'Brien stated that he had trouble opening the document. Mr. Betti pulled up the documents for the membership. Chief O'Brien stated that the Organization Chart needed to be updated.
 - Lt. Martin will add Steering Committee to the chart, above the Coordinator in addition to adding Mobex and Membership.
 - Mr. Betti believes that the Table of Contents in the HazMat document is awesome. This committee could use the same type of structure but using different categories specific to our committee. He asked if the committee felt that these were all the SOG's needed.
 - Lt. Martin stated that some would probably need to be developed later.
 - Chief O'Brien agreed that this would always be a fluid document.
 - Mr. Betti will put the DFS SOPs on SOP Committee letterhead, clean up Organizational Chart to put before the Council and get a ruling from Legal. He stated that the progress this committee has made is impressive.
 - No additional comments on the Organizational Chart and SOG Outline.
 - Should this committee bow out and let the Membership Committee put it forward?
- FF Springman stated that SOP Committee pretty much has to wait for Membership to see what they come up with, then make an SOP. Do we want to send this to them and see if they agree or do they want to continue with what they have been doing?
- Mr. Betti reported that he found a Membership Application Packet on SharePoint. He's also found older documents that he's moved to SharePoint as well as some documents that were in personal files that would also be moved to SharePoint.
 - We will stand down until we hear from Membership Committee.
 - There are documents in the shared drive which does not provide access to everyone.
 - Mr. Betti will continue searching for old documents as well as depending on others to provide any old documents they may have.
- The Application Process and Training point will be discussed at the next meeting.

1.c-Accessibility to DFS System/Tech Rescue Folder:

- Chief Belsito asked where we were with regards to D4H. Mr. Betti advised that some aspects are up and running. Cannot move forward until DFS is designated as owner.
- Mr. Betti will consolidate the two SOP files in the Tech Rescue folder under one file in SharePoint.

1.d-Review HazMat Spreadsheet:

- Lt. Martin shared the Table of Contents document.
- Chief Belsito asked if anyone had the opportunity to review the HazMat policies and should any of them be moved over to SOP Committee. Chief O'Brien asked that this be left open on the agenda until everyone has had the opportunity to review it.

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1.e-EMAC:

Discussion-The creation of a booklet; putting out an EMAC agreement presentation; Chief Belsito to sponsor a presentation for Region 3 and anyone else interested; go through Jacklyn to get available dates and times to offer presentations to the other regions.

Chief O'Brien advised that he would talk to Jacklyn to start putting up some dates. It will take him at least a couple of months to put together a program.

Discussion-on EMAC reimbursement; EMAC agreement presentation-Chief Belsito asked that Chief O'Brien keep him posted as to available dates for a presentation. He would like to offer the choice of a few dates, then picking the date that works best for the largest number of people.

1.f.-FIU/TRT PILOT PROGRAM:

Nothing has been done with the FIU Pilot Program.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Topics discussed throughout the meeting.

Response from Legal with regards to putting DFS policies forward. Legal provide the following through Mr. Betti: Glen is deferring until we become a state entity. When Tech Rescue becomes an agent of the State, all existing DFS SOPs would come into play.

Mr. Betti stated that we will need a better way to make these State SOPs accessible to the masses, the shared drive is only accessible to full time state employees.

Future Meeting: set for Thursday, October 17th, 2024 at 11:00 am.

Motion to adjourn:

Chief O'Brien made the motion to adjourn. Lt. Martin seconded the motion and with no further discussion it was passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1230.

Minutes prepared by Cheryl Barker, Sutton FD Admin Asst.