

Massachusetts Technical Rescue Joint Sub-Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Zoom Via Microsoft Teams**

The joint meeting of the Mass Tech Rescue Policy/SOG Subcommittee and the Membership and Training Subcommittee was opened by Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman of the Policy/SOG subcommittee at 11:21 a.m., via Zoom.

Subcommittees Members in Attendance:

Chief Matthew Belsito, Sutton Fire, Region 3, District 7
Iain McGregor, Chair Training Subcommittee
Jason Saunders, Chair Membership Subcommittee
Steve Chandler, Region 4 Training Subcommittee
John Weir, Region 5 Training Subcommittee
Chief Robert O'Brien, Hanson Fire, Region 1, District 2
Lt. Jonathan Martin, Auburn Fire, Region 3, District 7
FF Daryl Springman, Northampton Fire, Region 4, District 10
Thomas Rinoldo, Region 3 Training Subcommittee

Linda, Crowley, DFS
Cheryl Barker, Sutton Fire, guest

Agenda Item 2A-Tier Responses:

Some issues with regards to Tiering:

- People have different ideas as to what the numbers should be.
- How many people should be assigned to each team in each area?
- It should be the same whether it is local/regional or statewide.
- Could start out using the HazMat format.
For smaller incidents could use a response similar to HazMat's Tier 1 response.
- Departments are hesitant to call out for Tech Rescue assistance as they do not know who or when to call.

Chief O'Brien will send out the Mass Tech Rescue Teams Training Response Tier Levels document to all.

(Chief Belsito left the meeting for a structure fire at this time)
Iain McGregor filled roll of meeting Chair for rest of meeting.

Agenda Item 2B-Activation Flyer:

The Membership/Training Committee advised that this document has not been completed. This will be a one-page flyer that will be distributed to Dispatch Centers. The document will provide guidance based on basic questions the dispatcher would need to answer.

Agenda Item 2C-Incident Flow Chart:

This is an educational flyer that would provide information to arriving Officers to help with determining what resources would be needed.

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Agenda Item 2D-Vetting Process/Organizational Chart-

The following issues came out of the Region 3 Group meeting. Director Betti wanted this to be brought forward for discussion.

- What will be the vetting process for application to the State Teams?
- How to get the three districts together to start acting as a team for training?

Tom Rinoldo was pushing this back to Director Betti as he feels the group needs more direction from the State. What will the numbers be? How to initiate this for all teams?

Daryl Springman asked if they would want this as an SOP? He advised that his region set it up as a policy as they believed the State would want it to be.

Daryl will push something up to the Policy/SOG Committee.

How will the difference between the regions be handled, with some having many members vs those who don't have enough members.

Discussion on the back and forth discussions that have been going on regarding the membership numbers:

Iain McGregor advised that after working with Membership and Training Subcommittees, the Council did adopt the team membership number to be 80. There will be 80 technicians for each of the five regions.; With regards to the Tech Budget, Iain and Director Betti were building a draft plan that DFS would ask for funding for a Mobex in the first year; the following year they would ask for one half of the total area operating needs and the third year they would ask for funding for the full operational amount. They would also request that funding be taken from FY23 budget to fund D4H.

Mr. McGregor stated that there was some push back from FCAM because the HazMat team didn't start this big. The Council responded that the HazMat Team was just being organized, unlike the Tech Teams that have already been established and have been operating for a while. Tech cannot be expected to go backwards. Funding for 80 members was a happy middle ground. DFS will be able to move the money where it is needed.

Future agenda items: none

Each committee will arrange for their next meeting independently.

As Chief Belsito had left the meeting for a structure fire, Iain McGregor advised that he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn made by John Weir

Motion seconded by Rob O'Brien

With a unanimous roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chery Barker.