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**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**
January 22, 2025
Approved

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a virtual meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. and open to the public virtually through Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chair	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning	Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Susan Terrey	Deputy Secretary for EOPSS
Maribel Fournier (designee)	Deputy State Fire Marshal

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

Jon Davine	State Fire Marshal
Mark McCabe	Regional Technical Rescue Team

DFS Employees in Attendance:

David Clemons	Director of Operations
Glenn Rooney	Legal Counsel to the Board
Rachel Perlman	Deputy Legal Counsel to the Board
Paul Betti	Deputy Director of Special Operations

Other Attendees

Neil Tuepker	Region 1
Paul Morrison	Region 2
Francis Otting	Region 2
Mike Lydon	Region 2
Jon Martin	Region 3
Daryl Springman	Region 4

Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
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1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 1:05 p.m. The Chair introduced himself, followed by the introductions of the Council members, Department of Fire Services' employees, and public members in attendance.

2. Approval of December 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Deputy Secretary Terrey made a motion to accept the minutes from December 18, 2024, seconded by Deputy Chief Manning. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

None

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders reported that he has received over 90 equipment surveys from Region 1, 3 & 4. Paul Betti started putting the responses into an excel spreadsheet so data can be reviewed. No response from Region 5 yet, Iain McGregor suggested reaching out to Chief Weir and Chief Stats. Water rescue equipment is the next project to be taken on.
- b. Membership – Deputy Chief Manning reported that the team met on 1/21 focusing on the membership application. Paul Betti started updating the application scoring matrix based on the application changes.
- c. Training – Vice Chair McGregor indicated that the team is close to finalizing the training matrix. Specialty training (FFE, large animal) still needs to be added in. Desire to split out the water skills as they were jammed into 8 hours.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that the team met on 1/16. Jon Martin brought forward 3 SOG's for review. They still need slight tweaking but hope to bring it to the February council meeting.
- e. MOBEX – still on hiatus

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Neil Tuepker reported on the activities of Barnstable County. They had a drill on equipment and 2 call outs for search and rescue.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison stated that he reached out to the members for updates. Quincy did train on vehicle stabilizing, patient packaging and the vortex. There were 2 motor vehicle extrications, 7 elevator rescues and an emotionally disturbed person on the roof of a 6-story building, team staged for a rope rescue that was not needed. Cambridge is conducting surface ice rescue training.
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin indicated that D7 finished their Confined Space drill, reviewed permit versus non-permit required spaces and updated their entry forms. Communication practical drill in Ayer. 1 call out for a horse in distress, cancelled enroute.
- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated they had 1 call out to assist in an ox rescue. Confined Space standby at a manufacturing plant. Rope skills drill in January for annual sign off. Steering committee meeting on 1/22 where they accepted 8 new members. On 1/21 they took delivery of their new high-water truck.

- e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reports that they are doing a joint Confined Space drill at Woburn fire next week. February they are doing a large animal rescue drill. A veterinarian is retiring and donating large animal rescue equipment to the team. Working with a new representative at MSPCA as they want to engage with technical rescue, they are working to find funding to source a class. 0 call outs this past month. Team steering meeting happening on 2/5.

6. **Old Business**

- a. Legislative update

Glenn Rooney stated that 2 recent bills were filed, house docket 3622 and senate docket 396 an act relative to Technical Rescue. Comparing the bills from last session to these bills, it was a refile of what we referred to as the complex bill. Changes to section 3, stating the State Fire Marshal will divide the commonwealth into technical rescue regions versus the Secretary of EOPSS. In section 5, a phrasing change on membership to be each technical rescue region shall nominate one member. Also, a member shall hold an office until a successor is appointed. Further in section 5, verbiage change to state that every 2 years the council shall elect a chair, instead of saying biannually. Section 11 the verbiage was changed for the stipend to say up to \$5,000. The bills were filed before the hearing deadline. Iain McGregor added that these bills will go to the joint public safety committee, this is where the council and individual organizations that you represent can verbally or in writing agree or disagree with the bills. The council can make proposed edits and file it over the next couple months.

7. **New Business**

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

Iain McGregor reminded everyone that MATRS will be hosting an event on Thursday 1/23 from 6-10pm at the firefighter's hall in Brockton. Josh Shanley will be presenting on emerging hazards, climate change, flooding, dam failures and wildland fires.

9. **Future Agenda Items**

- a. Conop document review

10. **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 am, it will be a hybrid meeting held in person at the DCU center in Worcester (FCAM conference) and virtually.

Iain McGregor made a motion to adjourn, Deputy Marshal Fournier seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:42 pm.