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MATTHEW BELSITO
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IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**
February 26, 2025
Approved

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a hybrid meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public in person at the DCU Center in Worcester as well as virtually through Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Present at the meeting were the following Council members:

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chair
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair
Jason Saunders
Mark McCabe
Susan Terrey
Jon Davine

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Regional Technical Rescue Team
Deputy Secretary for EOPSS
State Fire Marshal

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Maribel Fournier
David Clemons
Glenn Rooney
Rachel Perlman
Jeff Winn
Paul Betti

Deputy State Fire Marshal
Director of Operations
Legal Counsel to the Board
Deputy Legal Counsel to the Board
Director of HazMat & Special Operations
Deputy Director of Special Operations

Other Attendees

Rob O'Brien
Neil Tuepker
Shawn Simmons

Region 1
Region 1
Region 1

Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
Hazardous Materials Response • Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Richard Arruda	Region 1
David Kean	Region 1
Christopher Coleman	Region 1
Francis Otting	Region 2
Mike Lydon	Region 2
Erik Mattson	Region 2
Jon Martin	Region 3
Tom Rinoldo	Region 3
Daryl Springman	Region 4
John Weir	Region 5
Paul Jacques	PFFM

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:09 a.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 January 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Mark McCabe made a motion to accept the minutes from January 22, 2025, seconded by Jason Saunders. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

None

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders had nothing to report, next up will be water equipment surveys.
- b. Membership – Deputy Chief Manning reported that there was no meeting this month but that they are close to finishing the membership application.
- c. Training – Deputy Chief Manning indicated that the team didn't meet this month, but they are close to finalizing the training matrix, focusing on FFE, Tower rescue and large animal rescue.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that the team met on 2/20. Jon Martin brought forward 2 SOG's for review/approval. Chair Belsito had a question that was impacting SOG creation, regarding equipment owned by Homeland Security and how it would come over to the state. Glenn Rooney answered this by saying it doesn't come over free & clear. It would have to be done on a case-by-case basis with each community.
- e. MOBEX – still on hiatus

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported on the activities of Barnstable County equipment drill & CS drill, 2 call outs for missing person. Bristol County did some rope rescue training. Plymouth County reviewed dive SOP's and did their annual ice rescue dive drill, they had 1 call out for large animal rescue. Norfolk County conducted a collapse rescue drill focusing on shoring and an advanced confined space drill. Dukes County had a low angle rescue drill and a confined space drill focusing on communications systems.
- b. Region 2 – Francis Otting stated that she had some team updates. Boston did 2

blind elevator rope rescues, and 2 water rescues. Cambridge & Somerville trained together on rope in blind shaft elevators. Boston and Cambridge did a joint ice rescue on the Charles River. Brookline had a couple of callouts for a substantial building collapse and an animal stuck on the ice. Cambridge had a car into a building, using winches and multipoint anchors they safely removed the vehicle.

- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin indicated that D7 had 4 activations, 1 for confined space and 3 large animal rescues. A drill was completed on the annual inventory and service of equipment. The dive team did an annual ice drill. Tom Rinoldo reported that the D14 dive completed training on the annual skills refresher, Tech team did rope access training in Natick. No activation for the dive team, 1 activation for large animal rescue which was declined as they don't have the training or equipment. Looking at funding with the management team to purchase this equipment.
- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated they completed rope access skills training. Upcoming Homeland Security funded classes for wide area search, swift water tech and boat operations within the next month. Greenfield had a significant event with a person stuck in a concrete hopper. After 1.5 hours it turned into body recovery. The team used rope, shoring, trenching and cutting techniques to complete the task. Getting set to host MATRS conference in May. The EMAC agreement meeting is scheduled to happen with region 3 in the next couple of weeks.
- e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reported that they had a large animal rescue drill, met new contact at MSPCA who assisted at training. Had a call out for large animal rescue in Hamilton. 2 new members will be joining the team.

6. **Old Business**

- a. Conop document review

Paul Betti showed the existing Concept of Operations document that is posted on our SharePoint. It has not been touched since 2021, as it has a bunch of comments from Glenn Rooney. A review at the SOG subcommittee showed that this document needs some work. One of the focus areas was the steering committees. Paul Betti asked for 2 council members to help him edit this document, specifically Vice Chair McGregor who was the only council member present at the time of document creation. Mark McCabe volunteered to assist Paul & Iain.

7. **New Business**

- a. SOG approval (Regional team management & Code of Conduct)

Paul Betti shared the SOG for regional team management (SOG 103) with the council. Chair Belsito asked if there were any concerns or questions and asked for a motion to accept as written. Motion by Mark McCabe, seconded by Deputy Manning. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion. Paul Betti shared the SOG for code of conduct (SOG 102) with the council. Chair Belsito asked if there were any concerns or questions and asked for a motion to accept as written. Motion by Mark McCabe, seconded by Deputy Manning. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

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

Chair Belsito discussed the meeting that took place in Beverly on February 19th with Mass Task Force 1, Chair Belsito, Vice Chair McGregor and Paul Betti were in attendance. They

discussed their mission, gave us a tour and discussed sharing information with us. Vice Chair McGregor added that the meeting went well, that they want to work with us in the future, and they are interested in joint training exercises in the future. Paul Betti stated that there is also work going on for MA TF1 to share structural engineers with the regional teams if we request through MEMA. Mike Lydon shared that Josh Shanley presented to MATRS on 1/23 at the firefighter's hall in Brockton. The presentation was well attended, it included discussion on weather related events, dam infrastructure, Leominster flooding, climate change, and the effects of wildland fires impacting the ground surface leading to flooding.

9. Future Agenda Items

10. Determination of future meeting date

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 9:00 am held virtually.

Fire Marshal Jon Davine made a motion to adjourn, Mark McCabe seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:51 am.