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MATTHEW BELSITO
CHAIRMAN

IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

March 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, March 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. and open to the public 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
Rachel Perlman
Jeff Winn
Paul Betti
Kerry Marcotte

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

Other Attendees

Francis Otting
Paul Morrison
Erik Mattson
Daryl Springman
RJ Pensivy
John Weir

Region 2
Region 2
Region 2
Region 4
Region 4
Region 5

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

Paul Jacques
Kaycie McCarthy
Roger Lauze

PFFM
MSPCA
MSPCA

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 February 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Deputy Secretary Terrey made a motion to accept the minutes from February 26, 2025, seconded by Mark McCabe. 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, Jason requested to put on next council agenda to show the summary of the vehicle surveys. The team will be working with the Region 3 & 4 EMAC team.
- b. Membership – There was no meeting in March, trying to find a working date in April.
- c. Training – Vice Chair McGregor indicated that the team didn't meet this month, they are trying to find dates that work in April. Then they will finalize the training matrix.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that the team met on 3/18. There is one policy up for approval today. The team is still working on creating more policies.
- e. MOBEX – still on hiatus

5. **Regional Reports**

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported on the activities of Barnstable County had 2 call outs for search & rescue, and a drill on wide area search. Bristol County did some training on Cal Topo, no call outs. Plymouth County had an SCT drill and Confined Space drill, no call outs. Norfolk County conducted a Confined Space drill and FFE drill, no call outs. Dukes County did a Confined Space drill, no call outs.
- b. Region 2 – Paul Morrison stated that Somerville had a call for car into a basement foundation requiring shoring. Somerville attended a drill with Region 4 on wide area search. Somerville and Cambridge are partnering to put a drill together in May on Deer Island. Cambridge did their monthly dive training. Cambridge did a body retrieval from the Charles River last week. Also had a call out for blind elevator shaft rescue. Boston Fire is working to establish inside floor space to build a deployable swift water cache for future EMAC requests. The old structural collapse trailer has been removed from service and 2 new trucks put into service. USAR 1 will be in Boston and USAR 2 in Cambridge, the old USAR 2 trailer was donated to D7.
- c. Region 3 – Chair Belsito stated D7 had a couple dive call outs, but they were cancelled enroute. Monthly training was completed as planned.
- d. Region 4 – Daryl Springman stated they had a call out to assist the fire

investigation unit in North Adams. They helped with victim removal and minor shoring. Confined Space drill was completed, and they hosted wide area search class for 48 people.

- e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reported that they had 3 large animal call outs. March drill was inside a trash burning furnace locally, they simulated a rescue at top of furnace using rope operation skills. 4 members completed their one year probation and are new team members.

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

- a. Review & approve of SOG 101

Paul Betti showed SOG 101 Absence of a SOG on the screen, this SOG covers for when there is no specific SOG created. Vice Chair McGregor made a motion to accept, seconded by Fire Marshal Davine, the vote was unanimous.

- b. Region 3 & 4 EMAC support

Daryl Springman shared that Region 3 & 4 have partnered to put people and equipment together to support future EMAC requests. The first meeting was held on March 11th, the follow up meeting is scheduled for May 21st. Scheduled training for the fall for a mock deployment. The plan is to have everything in place for July 1st. Dave Clemons commented on past deployments that were bogged down by the administrative support side for paperwork. Vice Chair McGregor commented on maybe being able to leverage the Special Operations group to support logistics. Chair Belsito brought up that Paul Betti has been involved in the meetings as they have asked for additional DFS support.

- c. Region 5 MSPCA training

Vice Chair McGregor discussed that Region 5 had a large animal rescue drill as part of their 18-month refresher. They have received a new donation of equipment, and they are seeking grant funding to possibly do some training for the tech rescue teams. Iain thought that it would be important to invite MSPCA contacts to this meeting, so Kaycie McCarthy and Roger Lauze joined us. This type of work started back in 1994 by helping tech rescue groups with large animal rescues. Recently they have received more calls to assist with large animal rescue. They want to help by training more fire departments and tech rescue resources. Reinforced the need for veterinarians to be called to these scenes to sedate the animal. Iain will share their contact info with the team. Mark McCabe added that this team was helpful during an event they had in Plainville.

- d. Review PFFM suggested edits to HD 2565 and SD 1742

Vice Chair McGregor took the proposed legislation and reviewed it for potential changes. They tried to simplify the changes without changing the intent. The joint committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security meetings tend to start being scheduled in April, so they wanted to put this out there before that. A quick summary of their suggested edits, in section 1 to leave it alone listing the secretary of public safety to set regions as they see fit. With the suggested edits they tried to make the legislation more closely match the existing HazMat language. This legislation would change the coordinating council to an advisory council. Paul Jacques thanked Iain for doing the work and that they look forward to passing the agreed upon language. Chair Belsito shared the suggested edits with the FCAM board of directors.

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

Paul Betti stated that he attended a meeting with Dave Clemons and MEMA to discuss the

process to request a MA TF1 disaster structural engineer to go to a regional call out. More work is to come as MEMA is investigating the need to exhaust state options first and that there would be a cost associated with using MA TF1. Vice Chair McGregor shared that MATRS will be having their next meeting on May 22nd 10:00-14:00 in Ludlow.

9. **Future Agenda Items**

- a. Equipment survey summary

10. **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:00 am held virtually.

Deputy Secretary Terrey made a motion to adjourn, Fire Marshal Davine seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:48 am.