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MATTHEW BELSITO

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IAIN MCGREGOR

VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

May 29, 2026

Approved

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council held a meeting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A § 20 on Friday, May 29, 2026, 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
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning
Mark McCabe
Jason Saunders
Jon Davine

Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Fire Chiefs Association of Mass.
Regional Technical Rescue Team
Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
State Fire Marshal

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

Susan Terrey

Deputy Secretary for EOPSS

DFS Employees in Attendance:

David Clemons
Rachel Perlman
Tim Gallagher
Paul Betti
Kerry Marcotte

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

Other Attendees:

Neil Tuepker
Chris Beal
Francis Otting
Mike Lydon
Joe Minehan
Shawn Green
Jon Martin
David Chapin
Daryl Springman
Paul Jacques
Janice Corkhum

Region 1
Region 1
Region 2
Region 2
Region 2
Region 3
Region 3
Region 3
Region 4
PFFM
MA TF1

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 1:04 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 past Meeting Minutes

Marshal Davine made a motion to accept the minutes from April 24, 2026, seconded by Vice Chair McGregor, vote was unanimous with no further discussion.

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

None

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders stated that the team has not met recently. The team is still working on pairing down the equipment list.
- b. Membership – Deputy Mannings reported that there is an upcoming meeting on June 9th. The plan to finish buttoning up the job descriptions for team director, assistant team director, training coordinator and assistant training coordinator.
- c. Training – Vice Chair McGregor explained that they completed the training matrix. Next step is to send to SOG subcommittee for review.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito shared that the team met on 5/26, the team reviewed status and what was next. The decision was to move onto cleaning up the Conops document.
- e. MOBEX – Vice Chair McGregor explained that team is still on hold awaiting state budget decisions.

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe gave an update for all 5 counties. Barnstable County had 2 call outs for wide area search; they had rope training in May. Bristol County had no call outs but did training on boat operations, suit testing and water rescue. Dukes County had no call outs but did standby for Eversource on Marthas Vineyard. They did train on confined space. Norfolk County had no call outs but did collapse drill in Franklin for May. Plymouth County had a call out for large animal rescue; they had a trench rescue drill in May.
- b. Region 2 – Joe Minehan reported that Boston had multiple rescues for people trapped under a train, all successful with minor injuries. They also had a confined space rescue. For training they did a car into a static trench that was quite complicated. The tango unit is back in the Charles River on Saturdays and Sunday for the summer. The structural collapse response went well but unfortunately resulted in LODD to FF Bobby Kilduff. Francis Otting expressed condolences for FF Kilduff, a moment of silence was held to honor our Tech Rescue brother. Chair Belsito offered prayers and condolences on behalf of the council to Boston Fire for their loss.
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin started that D7 did rope rescue training with pickoffs. The dive team was activated for a vehicle in the water. Tech

team was activated to Killingly Connecticut for mutual aid for a vehicle into a building. Resources were staged but ultimately Connecticut TF arrived. David Chapin stated D8 did training on structural collapse, breaching & breaking, setting anchors, using cameras, dirty breach as well as clean breach. Shawn Green reported that D14 did a joint drill with the dive team at the Milford Quarries. It was ½ mile hike in, then the team had to lower the boats & divers down a 40' cliff into the water.

- d. Region 4 – Jason Saunders stated that the team did structural collapse rescue training at Local 98. Two very challenging lanes were set up as members got to do exterior and interior shoring, breaching and breaking and some metal cutting. Truck 11 is now in service in Holyoke, a large utility truck capable of hauling 5 people. The old van & trailer will be repurposed.
- e. Region 5 – Vice Chair McGregor stated that they are still working on HLS funding for next year. New MOUs are being written to compensate responders at 100% for 5 drills a year but they plan to run 10 drills to meet minimum training hours required. They did receive a donated vehicle from Plymouth County, that will eventually replace squad 3 truck. 5 members are retiring this summer; they have 2-3 new members in the pipeline. They have an open assistant team leader position with Rick Nelson moving up.
- f. MA TF1 – Jay Moltenbrey stated that they did complete their medical specialist training. Members from regions 2, 3 & 4 were in attendance. They have an upcoming class on communication networking. In July they have a search team specialist class. Planning a MOBEX for some time in October on the Cape. Possible structural collapse class coming in late fall. Janice Corkhum thanked Daryl Springman and Paul Betti for attending the night ops portion of the medical specialist class.

6. **Old Business**

a. Legislation update

Rachel Perlman stated that there was no change as both bills still sit in Ways and Means. Vice Chair McGregor added that the bills will need a push from the council to the legislators. It must be voted out of Ways and Means to get to the floor for a 3rd reading. Will begin work through PFFM to try to push this. Chair Belsito added that he has been in conversation with Rep Steve Xiarhos from the Cape as well as Senator Mike Moore.

b. Review of Steering & Subcommittee membership

Paul Betti stated there have been some updates mainly from Region 2 so he turned the conversation over to Francis Otting. Lt. Paul Morrison will be taking the team coordinator position and will be working closely with Chief Joe Minehan from Boston and Chief Dave Randolph from Brookline. Captain PJ Halloran from Somerville will be taking the training coordinator role and Mike Lydon from Boston will take the technician role. We thank Francis Otting for her dedicated service of greater than 5 years to the council as well as the membership subcommittee, we will miss her greatly. All subcommittees now have representation from all regions. Region 3 steering committee changes are still pending, as Chief Smith will move into Chief Sullivan's position and then Chief Smith will vacate the technician at large slot. Then a technician from D7, D8 or D14 would have to fill that open slot. There is one issue that must be fixed in Region 5 in that a technician at large spot is now being held by an officer that was promoted, we also need confirmation on all other slots.

7. **New Business**

a. Review and approve FY26 MTRCC annual report

Paul Betti summarized the report for the council. The report was created from the 12 months of meeting minutes as well as items requested by the council. After Paul gave the summary to the council, Mark McCabe made a motion to accept; Deputy Chief Manning seconded it. All voted in favor of accepting the report as written.

b. Discuss FEMA reform report

Chair Belsito asked Paul Betti to add this to the agenda. Chair Belsito, Paul Betti, Janice Corkhum and Jay Moltenbrey had a brief offline meeting last week to discuss this report but the Chair wanted everyone to hear the summary. Janice Corkhum shared that the report suggested that USAR task forces be retained for the 28 national teams. They are promoting the response model that TF1 uses. They do recommend a more state lead disaster relief system while preserving federal assets. They did receive an extra \$15M in FY26 funding to be split across the 28 teams. Jay Moltenbrey added that the report is still open to public comment through June 8th before being finalized. There is support from the house and senate to increase the overall budget from \$56M to \$90M. It is an interesting report that is highly suggested to be read by all. They do want more local and state partnerships with the federal government versus the federal government being in charge.

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

Paul Betti added that he attended the structural collapse joint drill in Norfolk County on May 22nd. He got to see multiple stations and got to view the mothership trailer with all the equipment.

Vice Chair McGregor shared that the MATRS meeting happened on May 7th. Brock Tree service did a demo on tree rescue. They are available to come out to do training or rescue as needed. Corvus also presented and gave the team some good ideas on future competitions. MATRS will be hosting another challenge in September in Sutton at purgatory chasm. It will be a 2-day event including a dive component.

Paul Betti shared that he attended the New England Rescue Collaborative (NERC) lab on May 8th in Manchester NH. This was set up by PJ Halloran, and he extended the invite to all members of the council. A great day as I got to witness many stations including a vehicle in the water and helicopter picks from a bridge. Some great vendors were also present showing their products.

Joe Minehan shared that he heard from a gentleman coming from the UK on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of June. He's in a Churchill fellowship and he's doing all sorts of work on rope loads and testing out different systems. Joe is going to get him in touch with Mark McCabe.

9. **Future Agenda Items**

10. **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 11:00 am held virtually.

Mark McCabe made a motion to adjourn; Deputy Chief Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:02 pm.