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MATTHEW BELSITO
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IAIN MCGREGOR
VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**
August 27, 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, August 27, 2025, at 3:00 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.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Mark McCabe	Regional Technical Rescue Team
Jon Davine	State Fire Marshal

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

Iain McGregor, Vice Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Susan Terrey	Deputy Secretary for EOPSS

DFS Employees in Attendance:

Maribel Fournier	Deputy State Fire Marshal
Glenn Rooney	Legal Counsel to the Board
Rachel Perlman	Deputy Legal Counsel to the Board
David Clemons	Director of Operations
Paul Betti	Deputy Director Special Operations

Other Attendees

Rob O'Brien	Region 1
Francis Otting	Region 2
Paul Morrison	Region 2
Bob Bottary	Region 2
Mike Lydon	Region 2
Jon Martin	Region 3

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

Tom Rinoldo
Al Sirois
Paul Jacques

Region 3
Region 4
PFFM

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 3:01 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

Mark McCabe made a motion to accept the minutes from June 25, 2025, 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 stated that pretty much everything is wrapped up on the equipment surveys, now moving onto water rescue resources. The focus will be looking at the FEMA type 2 water equipment list. Jason believes most of the teams are in good shape but there are some holes. Jason also wants to look at position task books for swift water technicians and boat operators.
- b. Membership – Deputy Manning indicated that the team met on August 19th, the focus was reviewing the application scoring tool that will be to help the steering committees. There will need to be training that goes along with this tool. The team also brainstormed on future projects. The team discussed defining leadership roles and developing job descriptions.
- c. Training – Vice Chair McGregor was not present so no update.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that the team did not meet but plan to resume in September.
- e. MOBEX – still on hiatus

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe shared updates on the 5 counties. Barnstable had 2 call outs for searches. Bristol did rope training and had 2 call outs, 1 for a missing person and the 2nd for large animal rescue. Norfolk had no training or call outs. Plymouth had a dive drill, lifting & moving drill and 1 call out for search & rescue. Dukes had no call outs but did training in confined space, search & rescue and their new communication system.
- b. Region 2 – Bob Botary gave update for Boston. They completed their surface water training for all 150 tech rescue members. They are in progress for the Draeger tunnel mask training. Significant call out for a car into a building with entrapment. They had to shore the building before rescuing the victim. They took possession of their 45' dive boat. Paul Morrison gave the rest of the update on the communities. Revere had 2 water rescues for people stranded on a jetty at high tide and 12 elevator rescues. Cambridge and Somerville had a joint drill at the MBTA. It was an overnight drill to establish readiness to rescue maintenance workers 150' down on a platform. Cambridge continues their monthly dive training. Quincy is working on equipping a dive team. UASI communities did a rope access drill on a communication tower in Medford.

- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported that D7 dive team conducted their annual training, and they had 2 call outs. 1 call was canceled on route; the 2nd was diving for a car that went into the water. For the tech team, August was spent servicing their equipment and some annual maintenance. They had 1 call out that was cancelled halfway into the call. Tom Rinoldo reported that D14 took the summer off from training, the next topic will be large animal rescue. The team put some new equipment into service that was funded by NERAC. The team interviewed and appointed 8 new members, bringing their total to 40 members.
- d. Region 4 – Jason Saunders shared that the July training was on tower rescue, and August training was on rope skills. 1 call out to Becket quarry assisting dive teams to recover a drown swimmer. It was a 2-day operation that involved getting equipment down to the water. New truck for Holyoke has been ordered; delivery will be in the winter.
- e. Region 5 – No one present

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

- a. Review and approve regional document storage on DFS SharePoint
Paul Betti explained that this request came to him from Daryl Springman in region 4. Paul approached Glenn Rooney who stated that the council had to approve this request. Region 4 is currently storing team documents on a google drive that they are not sure who owns or has privileges. They are requesting that DFS host a site for them to store their Tech Rescue documents. Paul Betti explained that it wouldn't be difficult to do if approved. Chair Belsito asked for a motion, Deputy Chief Manning made the motion, and Jason Saunders seconded it. All council members present voted to support.

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

Mark McCabe asked if there was any update on the legislation. Glenn Rooney stated there was no movement yet.

9. **Future Agenda Items**

10. **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 11:00 am held virtually.

Mark McCabe made a motion to adjourn; Jason Saunders seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:27 pm.