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VICE CHAIR

**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE  
COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**August 28, 2024**  
**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, August 28, 2024, at 10:00 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  
Jason Saunders  
Mark McCabe  
Maribel Fournier (Designee)  
Susan Terrey

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

**Absent** from the meeting were the following Council members:

Iain McGregor, Vice Chair  
Jon Davine

Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.  
State Fire Marshal

**DFS Employees in Attendance:**

Glenn Rooney  
Rachel Perlman  
David Clemons  
Paul Betti

Legal Counsel to the Board  
Deputy Legal Counsel to the Board  
Director of Operations  
Deputy Director of Special Operations

**Other Attendees**

Rob O'Brien  
Shawn Simmons  
Francis Otting  
Paul Morrison  
Michael Moran  
Shawn Donovan  
Dave Randolph

Region 1  
Region 1  
Region 2  
Region 2  
Region 2  
Region 2  
Region 2

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

Mike Pavone  
Mark Wolfgang  
Jon Martin  
John Weir

Region 2  
Region 2  
Region 3  
Region 5

**1. Meeting Opening and Introductions**

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 10:02 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 July 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Deputy Secretary Terrey made a motion to accept the minutes from July 24, 2024, seconded by Mark McCabe. A unanimous roll call vote was completed, no further discussion.

**3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence**

Some correspondence between Paul Betti and Region 2 regarding EMAC requests. As well as some with Chief O'Brien regarding the Plymouth County pilot, see new business.

**4. Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders reported that they didn't get quorum at last meeting so trying to find a new date. The equipment survey is out and looking for it to be returned by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Water rescue equipment will be the next topic of a survey.
- b. Membership – Deputy Chief Manning reported that the joint team met on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Team focused on reviewing the membership application/criteria. Still working on NFPA training matrix. Next meeting will be on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Training – same as above
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that they met on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Team had a great meeting, focus was discussing EMAC requests. Chief O'Brien also shared his pilot program to support structure stability to support fire investigation. They reviewed 6 different DFS policies that need to be converted to Tech Rescue.

**5. Regional Reports**

- a. Region 1 – Mark McCabe reported the following details for each County team. Plymouth County had a night dive drill, a wide area search drill with Semlec and rope drill coming up in Brockton. Norfolk County had no call outs and no training. Barnstable County had a call in Truro for a missing person. Bristol County did some training on high angle rope at Freetown Forest. Dukes County had no update.
- b. Region 2 – Shawn Donovan reported that Boston was doing training on trench rescue. They also completed the dry run for Fenway Park event coming up on 9/12.
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin reported D7 had an incident where a truck drove into a building in Charlton which turned into a shoring operation. Training on raker shoring on acquired structure. D8 had a quarry collapse event in Sterling. No update for D14.
- d. Region 4 – Jason Saunders stated they did joint training with local ski patrol, focusing on tower rescue and chair evacuations. Also did rope and ski slope

evacuation training. In September there will water rescue training at Westover reserve base. Acquisition of high-water vehicle has improved as manufacturer pulled in the delivery date.

- e. Region 5 – John Weir reported that they had no activations, and they completed a multi station drill in August. Focusing on fitting up an old vehicle. September training will be wide area search drill.

## 6. **Old Business**

- a. MATRS event on 9/12

Jason Saunder gave an update on this event where MATRS partnered with Boston Fire for this training event at Fenway Park. Dry run of the 3 stations was done on August 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boston Fire and MATRS. Region 1, Boston, Region 2 (UASI), Region 3, Region 4 & Region 5 are all sending teams. The equipment list was sent out to the team leaders. Parking will be close to the park, but it will be limited. The speaker has been secured for the business meeting on 9/11 in Newton, this is open to everyone.

## 7. **New Business**

- a. EMAC deployment response discussion

Chair Belsito brought up the 3 meetings that were pulled together to potentially support North Carolina, South Carolina and Vermont. The chair was in constant conversation with Paul Betti and others around these events. The council put forward a budget but there were no provisions for EMAC's. Paul Betti shared that he had a brief discussion with the Marshal about the need to have some DFS funding set aside to reimburse municipalities. This would be for labor, and that maybe DFS could have a credit card to pay for hotels and food. We would use the fuel cards that exist in every DFS vehicle. Deputy Marshal Fournier said that it is more involved than just asking for a bucket of money but that she could educate us on this later. Deputy Secretary Terrey had a brief conversation with the Marshal about this and would be onboard to discuss this further. Chief O'Brien met with Jaci Hamel from MEMA to discuss the most recent requests. Chief O'Brien also shared information at the policy subcommittee. For future meetings everyone should pull in Jaci Hamel in the discussions. When Tech Rescue falls under the state, the EMAC reimbursements change and then MEMA can reimburse the municipalities. Most EMAC's don't reimburse for backfill, only for the technician hourly rate, overtime and fringe benefits. Chief O'Brien and Jaci Hamel have presented to the Region 1 chiefs in the past, and they are offering to do this for the other regions in the future. Dave Clemons stated to remember that when the EMAC paperwork is submitted that it is a bid and to keep figures accurate. The bid may not be accepted because of the prevailing rates. Mike Pavone asked a question about D4H. Paul Betti stated that the councils plan was to purchase D4H for Tech Rescue when DFS is responsible for the teams. Boston currently uses the software as does Region 5 and that there is a communication feature as well as the ability to see each regions assets to aid with EMAC's.

- b. Region 1 (Plymouth County) pilot of building stability consultation for fire investigators

Chief O'Brien shared information on the pilot that is underway in Plymouth County. This is a partnership with DFS FIU Lt. Desrochers. This is needed because of building lightweight construction it has become dangerous for FIU to due investigations. Need one of 3 criteria, either a fatal fire, high profile event or a suspicious fire. The IC and FIU would get together to determine the need, then a call would go out to Tech Rescue. A small squad (5-6 people) would respond to shore up the structure. Started in early August in Plymouth County and then

will push to the rest of the Region 1 and then eventually statewide around January. The Tech Rescue squad would be working in turnout gear & SCBA. Will work with policy subcommittee to move forward.

c.       Region 2 budget discussion regarding reimbursement for mutual aid

Paul Betti shared the question from Region 2 Mike Moran in regard to Tech Rescue budget submission and that there was no money listed under Region 2 for responses. Mike's question was regarding going on a mutual aid call to another region. Paul pulled a meeting together with DFS management and legal counsel. The simple answer is we will do mutual aid reimbursements thru D4H. Each Region 2 community that have members on Tech Rescue team would need to have a signed contract with DFS. Should a major event happen where Region 2 sends assets to another region then a roster of responding members would be submitted to DFS. Then reimbursements to each community would be done at the end of the month, like how HazMat does it. This will be put in writing in the future.

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

Mark McCabe asked for an update on the legislation. Glenn Rooney stated there was no new updates. The complex bill (S1596) and simple bill (S2535) are still in committee. The complex bill is at ways & means; the simple bill is at senate rules committee. Glenn suggested to continue to advocate through the regions to your legislators.

9.       **Future Agenda Items**

10.      **Determination of future meeting date**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 3:00pm virtually.

Mark McCabe made a motion to adjourn, Deputy Marshal Fournier seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:47am.