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MATTHEW BELSITO
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**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL RESCUE
COORDINATING COUNCIL
November 20, 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, November 20, 2024, at 2:00 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.
Iain McGregor, Vice Chair	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Jason Saunders	Professional Fire Fighters of Mass.
Susan Terrey	Deputy Secretary for EOPSS
Jon Davine	State Fire Marshal

Absent from the meeting were the following Council members:

Mark McCabe	Regional Technical Rescue Team
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DFS Employees in Attendance:

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

Other Attendees

Rob O'Brien	Region 1
Neil Tuepker	Region 1
David Levenson	Region 1
Francis Otting	Region 2
Shawn Donovan	Region 2
Mike Lydon	Region 2

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

Jon Martin
Tom Rinoldo
RJ Pensivy
Dan MacSwain

Region 3
Region 3
Region 4
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1. Meeting Opening and Introductions

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 2:03 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 October 24, 2024. Meeting Minutes

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

3. Discuss Tech Rescue Correspondence

Jason Saunders had some email communications regarding Equipment subcommittee.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Equipment – Jason Saunders reported that Region 1, Region 3 and Region 4 equipment surveys have all been received and added to the SharePoint. Chair Belsito communicated that he reached out to the Region 5 steering committee to try to get their surveys back. Paul Betti added that there is a problem with the Region 5 steering committee list. Iain McGregor added that Chief Don Stats and Chief John Weir have replaced Chief Brian Moriarty and Chief Mike Mansfield. Paul will update the list in the SharePoint accordingly and share with Chair Belsito.
- b. Membership – Deputy Chief Manning reported that the joint team met on November 19th. The focus was reviewing the updated membership application. Also, the scoring tool that Paul Betti had drafted to help the steering committees score the applicants will need adjustment based on application changes. Next meeting is 12/17 where they will be bringing forward the new application and scoring matrix.
- c. Training – Iain McGregor indicated that Steve Chandler has completed Rope, Trench and Confined Space outline for NFPA JPR's and recommended training hours. The document will be finalized by adding Water, RJ Pensivy and Steve Chandler will have that completed by the next meeting.
- d. Policy/SOG – Chair Belsito indicated that the team will be meeting on November 21st.
- e. MOBEX – still on hiatus

5. Regional Reports

- a. Region 1 – Rob O'Brien reported that he had no team updates.
- b. Region 2 – Francis Otting stated that they had a successful multi agency MBTA drill last weekend. Training 20 members as technical search specialist with UASI funding. Boston working on completing a drone training class.
- c. Region 3 – Jon Martin indicated that D7 had no calls in last month but did complete training on wide area search using Cal Topo at Old Sturbridge Village. Straight wall trench training conducted in Millbury. Lost the DRI swift water D14 had 1 dive activation in Westboro, cancelled enroute. Dive drill with

- vehicle and occupant in water. Confined Space drill also completed.
- d. Region 4 – Jason Saunders stated that the November drill was cancelled due to ongoing brush fires. Large animal rescue class completed in early November. The team was activated for a down horse in Lanesborough, no team activity required. Activation for mill collapse in Russell, all victims recovered by local resources, so tech team not needed. Makeup drill scheduled for early December.
 - e. Region 5 – Iain McGregor reports that on 11/21 they will have a structural collapse drill along with the National guard unit. Breching, breaking, cutting and rigging are the topics. December is scheduled to have rope skills drill. They have had no incidents.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

- a. Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART) update

Paul Betti opened the discussion by stating that on 11/19/24 there was a second meeting that MEMA had scheduled at JBCC. MEMA is driving updates to the policy to update how the HART team is activated as well as the Visio flow chart. This team can be activated by the Fire Marshal or through the ESF9 desk. Chief Rob O'Brien gave the details and the history of this team. It was started in 2018, based on the program from North Carolina. Currently there are 10-12 Tech Rescue resources trained, with limited helicopters, as well as limited National Guard pilots and crew chiefs. Dan MacSwain who is the lead pilot was in attendance as well. Currently the National Guard has 2 crew chiefs qualified on the hoist. The Blackhawks that fly these missions are located at JBCC and Barnes, there are 2 types which is either a utility or a medivac. A typical mission consists of 2-3 Tech Rescue technicians, 2 pilots and 1 crew chief onboard. Initial training is 5 days of ground school before training on the helicopter/hoist starts. Refresher training is done 4 times a year. In the next year they will open the application process to bring on more technicians. All equipment must be air worthiness rated (AWR). Can only be used for live victim extraction. Approval by MEMA director is required but process can take 2-12 hours and is cost prohibitive. Updated documentation from MEMA is planned to be live in January 2025. Iain McGregor shared the history that soon after the MTRCC formed that this asset was adopted as a standalone team.

8. Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Iain McGregor discussed the International Tech Rescue Symposium (ITRS) that happened November 7-10 in Colorado Springs. Iain was in attendance and gave a brief talk on our Fenway Park event, they acknowledged the efforts of Shawn Donovan, Mike Caddell and Scott Jensen.

9. Future Agenda Items

- a. SOG review
- b. Membership application

10. Determination of future meeting date

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 2:00 pm virtually.

Iain McGregor made a motion to adjourn, Deputy Chief Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote was made unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:46 pm.