



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Massachusetts  
Technical Rescue  
Coordinating Council*

# 2024 Annual Report

Chief Matthew Belsito  
Chairman

Iain McGregor – Vice Chairman  
Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey  
State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine  
Deputy Chief Kelly Manning  
Jason Saunders  
Mark McCabe

July 2024

The Council, as established in Chapter 217 of the Acts of 2018, and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 22D s.6, is tasked with the overall coordination of a statewide technical rescue response program. The Council consists of the Secretary of Public Safety and Security, the State Fire Marshal, and five (5) appointees of the Governor, two (2) of whom shall be members of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc., two (2) of whom shall be members of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, and one (1) who shall be selected from a regional technical rescue team to represent the statewide teams as a whole.

The Council has several statutory functions including, but not limited to:

- Organizing and coordinating technical rescue services throughout the Commonwealth
- Developing uniform standards, rules, and procedures for the operation of a statewide technical rescue service program, and
- Establishing cost recovery mechanisms for technical rescue services provided within a technical rescue region
- Administering the Technical Rescue Services Fund

Council Activity July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024:

- Chief Matthew Belsito was nominated as Chairman of the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council in September 2023.
- Iain McGregor was nominated to serve as Vice Chairman of the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council in September 2023.
- Deputy Chief Kelly Manning was appointed to serve as a member of the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council in February 2024, this was to replace Chief Michael Mansfield.
- Mark McCabe was appointed to serve as a member of the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council in April 2024, this was to fill a vacancy.
- All subcommittees continue to meet regularly to create detailed portions of the technical rescue system.
- The Council has approved 6 Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG), Planning Section Chief, Medical Specialist, Medical Team Manager, Confined Space, Assistant to Team Leader and First Arriving Member. Many more SOG's are in progress.
- Water added to core response types to accompany Trench, Rope, Confined Space and Structural Collapse, this was approved by the Council.
- An in-depth analysis of the required training requirements per NFPA standards is still in progress. This analysis will affect the minimum training hours requirement, see attachment A for more details.



- Statewide Mobilization Exercise Planning subcommittee was put on hold pending budget acceptance, exercise delayed.
- Creation of a team activation/capabilities flyer was completed, see attachment B for more details.
- The equipment subcommittee was rebuilt and resurrected under the direction of a new Chair; this subcommittee had been on hiatus for almost a year. Now focusing on understanding how many vehicles are owned by the regional teams, and then start preparing for which ones would transition to DFS.
- Council partnering with Massachusetts Association of Technical Rescue Specialist (MATRS) on mini mobile exercises. The first one occurred at Six Flags in Agawam in September 2023. The second event is scheduled for Fenway Park in Boston in September 2024.
- All data collected and analyzed for Technical Rescue call responses between 2017 to 2023.
- Regional team sizes were recalculated based on call data; these were approved by the Council.
- An initial operating budget of \$3.93M was created and approved by the Council. Implementation is pending legislative approval.

Discipline	Hours	Skills	Skill Hours	NFPA Requirement
<b>Rope</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>All systems assume the use of edge tethers, edge managers, safety, and command in line with NFPA requirements</b>		
		System building and mechanical advantage calculations	3	5.2.2 All Subsections, 5.3.2 (1) (2) (3) (4) (7)
		Anchor system building/review (load sharing, redundancy, self-equalizing), tie-backs, pickets	2	5.2.2 All Subsections 5.3.2 (10)
		Rappel to safe landing, patient package and haul up	2	5.3.2 (1) (2) (3) (4) (7) (11) (13)
		Twin Tension systems versus Classic Main and Belay	2	5.3.2 (1) (3) (5) (7) (12) (13) (15)
		Lower rescuer to a point of rescue with a hot switch to retrieve rescuer	3	5.3.2 (6) (8) (10) (13) (14)
		Low angle carry out with fall arrest system (preferably with multiple fall arrest line resets) (Litter tender systems review)	2	5.3.2 (5) (10) (13) (14)
		Pick off	2	5.4.2 (1) (4) (6) (8) (13) (14) (16) (17)
		Rescuer Lower to patient packaging to litter tending back to top or down to ground	4	5.4.2 (1) (3) (4) (5) (13) (14) (17)
		High line with W tensioning system	4	5.4.2 (1) (2) (5) (8) (13) (14) (17)
<b>Trench</b>	<b>16</b>			
		Trench shoring using pneumatic shores in a straight trench (utilizing supplemental sheeting and shoring)	4	11.3.4 All subsections, 11.4.3 All Subsections
		Trench shoring using inside walers (utilizing heavy equipment where possible)	4	11.3.4 All subsections, 11.4.3 All Subsections
		Trench force calculations for shoring considerations	2	11.3.4 All subsections, 11.4.3 All Subsections, 11.2.3 All subsections
		Trench shoring using pneumatic shores in an intersecting trench	4	11.4.3 All subsections
		Victim packaging and removal in a shored trench	2	11.2.3 (8)
<b>Structural</b>	<b>24</b>			
<b>Confined Space</b>	<b>8</b>			
<b>Water</b>	<b>?</b>			



# Guide to MA Department of Fire Services Technical Rescue Response

## About Us:

The Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team is comprised of Firefighters from the cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the guidance of the State Fire Marshal. The purpose of the team is to provide a nucleus of highly trained and motivated special rescue personnel to assist the county and surrounding agencies with technical knowledge, equipment, and support to mitigate technical rescue incidents safely and effectively.

## Activation Level Options:

### Phone Consult with Team Lead

### Tier I (5)

### Tier II Team Response (12)

### Tier III Team Response (30)

### Tier IV – multiple operational periods

### Tier V – all state teams to respond

## Capabilities:

Rope/High-Angle Rescue	Confined Space Rescue	Trench Rescue
Tower Rescue	Swift Water Rescue	Structural Collapse
Large Animal Rescue	Flood / Surface Water Rescue	Wide Area Search
Field Force Extrication	Rapid Needs Assessment	

## Team Activation Procedure:

Contact local dispatch to request Technical Rescue Team response. Advise of incident:

- Location of incident
- Incident details
- Resources needed
- Team staging area
- Incident commander