

8/8/24



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
 Department of Fire Services
 Massachusetts Technical Rescue
 Coordinating Council
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MAURA T. HEALEY
 GOVERNOR
 KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
 TERENCE M. REIDY
 SECRETARY

CHIEF MATTHEW BELSITO
 CHAIRMAN
 IAIN MCGREGOR
 VICE CHAIR

July 26, 2024

Honorable Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary
 Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
 1 Ashburton Place, Suite 2133
 Boston, MA 02108

Chairman Aaron Michlewitz
 Joint Committee on Ways and Means
 24 Beacon Street, Room 243
 Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Walter F. Timilty
 Jt. Comm. on Public Safety and Homeland Security
 24 Beacon Street, Room 213B
 Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Michael J. Rodrigues
 Joint Committee on Ways and Means
 24 Beacon Street, Room 212
 Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Carlos Gonzalez
 Jt. Comm. on Public Safety and Homeland Security
 24 Beacon Street, Room 167
 Boston, MA 02133

Steven T. James, Clerk
 Massachusetts House of Representatives
 24 Beacon Street, Room 145
 Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley, Clerk
 Massachusetts Senate
 24 Beacon Street, Room 335
 Boston, MA 02133

Re: Annual Report of the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council

Dear Secretary Reidy, Chairman Timilty, Chairman Gonzalez, Chairman Michlewitz, Chairman Rodrigues, and Clerks James and Hurley:

Pursuant to the requirements of M.G.L. c. 29 s. 2DDDDD, the Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council ("Council") submits the attached annual report detailing the Council's activities from July 2023 through June 2024.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Chief Matthew Belsito, Chair
Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council

MB/ml



8/8/24

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.

Attachment A

Discipline	Hours
Rope	24

Trench 16

Structural 24

Confined Space 8

Water ?

Skills

All systems assume the use of edge tethers, edge managers, safety, and command in line with NFPA requirements

System building and mechanical advantage calculations

Anchor system building/review (load sharing, redundancy, self-equalizing), tie-backs, pickets

Rappel to safe landing, patient package and haul up

Twin Tension systems versus Classic Main and Belay

Lower rescuer to a point of rescue with a hot switch to retrieve rescuer

Low angle carry out with fall arrest system (preferably with multiple fall arrest line resets) (Litter tender systems review)

Pick off

Rescuer Lower to patient packaging to litter tending back to top or down to ground

High line with W tensioning system

Trench shoring using pneumatic shores in a straight trench (utilizing supplemental sheeting and shoring)

Trench shoring using inside walers (utilizing heavy equipment where possible)

Trench force calculations for shoring considerations

Trench shoring using pneumatic shores in an intersecting trench

Victim packaging and removal in a shored trench

Skill Hours	NFPA Requirement
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3 5.2.2 All Subsections, 5.3.2 (1) (2) (3) (4) (7)

2 5.2.2 All Subsections 5.3.2 (10)

2 5.3.2 (1) (2) (3) (4) (7) (11) (13)

2 5.3.2 (1) (3) (5) (7) (12) (13) (15)

3 5.3.2 (6) (8) (10) (13) (14)

2 5.3.2 (5) (10) (13) (14)

2 5.4.2 (1) (4) (6) (8) (13) (14) (16) (17)

4 5.4.2 (1) (3) (4) (5) (13) (14) (17)

4 5.4.2 (1) (2) (5) (8) (13) (14) (17)

4 11.3.4 All subsections, 11.4.3 All Subsections

4 11.3.4 All subsections, 11.4.3 All Subsections

2 11.3.4 All subsections, 11.4.3 All Subsections, 11.2.3 All subsections

4 11.4.3 All subsections

2 11.2.3 (8)



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

