



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Training and Exercise Committee Meeting

Minutes

September 9, 2021

12:00pm

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 995 4584 9607

Passcode: 297319

Dial In: 646 876 9923

Call to Order

- Chair Chief J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Approval of Minutes from the July 8, 2021 Meeting

MOTION put forth by M. Foster.

- Approve the July 8, 2021 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by Chief J. Fisher.
 - In favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, B. Klag.
 - Opposed: none.
 - Abstain: none.
- The motion passed.

Budget Update

- All Committee members were provided with the following budget update:

Project Name	Funding Year	Allocated Amount	Encumbered Amount	Invoiced Amount
Northwest Regional AAIR Training (Pepperell, Groton, Ashby, Dunstable, Townsend)	FFY2019	\$13,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Regional Stop-the-Bleed Training (West Newbury/Merrimac/Groveland)	FFY2019	\$28,351.92	\$4,780.60	\$4,780.60
Active Shooter Training Equipment Trailer	FFY2019	\$5,500.00	\$4,295.00	\$4,295.00
Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) Course	FFY2019	\$14,825.00	\$14,825.00	\$0.00
Topsfield School Evacuation Full-Scale Exercise	FFY2019	\$27,050.00	\$27,050.00	\$0.00
Large Animal Rescue Training	FFY2019	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Active Shooter Training	FFY2020	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advanced Disaster Life Support Training	FFY2020	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Burlington Mall Full Scale Exercise	FFY2020	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ICS-300/400	FFY2020	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Rescue Task Force Training	FFY2020	\$95,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Salem Haunted Happenings TTX	FFY2020	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Remaining unallocated funds:

FFY19 General Trainings and Exercises: \$251.95

FFY19 Technical Rescue Drills: \$5,020.04

FFY20 General Trainings and Exercises: \$0.00

FFY20 Technical Rescue Drills: \$0.00

- *Active Shooter Equipment Funding Request*
 - Chief E. Shears presented the request for a GunSHOT Box Scenario Trainers Kit, which simulates gunshot sounds to allow for more realistic trainings.
 - During a typical training, instructors try and simulate gunshots and run into the problem of blank rounds not being loud enough. Due to this issue, instructors end up using voices to simulate shots during trainings, which is unrealistic. This piece of equipment would be added to the active shooter training kit housed at Merrimac PD and will cost approximately \$3,532.17 (with a \$400 discount).

MOTION put forth by Chief J. Fisher.

- Use \$251.95 of unallocated FFY19 Training & Exercise funding and \$3,280.22 from FFY19 O.02 Regional Stop the Bleed Training BF/OT to fund the GunSHOT Box Scenario Trainers Kit.
- Seconded by M. Foster.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, B. Klag.
 - Opposed: none.
 - Abstain: none.
- The motion passed.

ATIRC and LASER Course Deliveries

- Per J. Tedesco of MEMA:
 - Dates penciled in for these courses are as follows: June 14-16, 2022 (ATIRC) and July 26-28, 2022 (LASER).
 - The Committee will need to determine locations for these courses and NERAC will have more responsibility now regarding course logistics than had been the case in the past.
 - Chief J. Gilliland: ATIRC works very well in a school and after October 1 there will be two schools in Marblehead that will be empty that could be used for the training.
 - Southeast will be holding ATIRC and LASER trainings in November 2021.

Average Spending on Tech Rescue Drills

- The Committee previously discussed reviewing the allocations for Tech Rescue Drills based on what is typically paid out in BF/OT, in an effort to budget more accurately for these costs. MAPC calculated the following:
 - 31 drills from FFY16-FFY19 and the average was \$6,380.69 per drill.
 - Drill totals range from \$280 - \$10,150.

District 14 Tech Rescue Funding

- There was a discussion regarding the allocation of some funding to the District 14 Tech Rescue Team, which crosses the NERAC/CRHSAC border.
 - Chief T. Judge and one of the team leaders, Hopkinton Chief B. Miller, were in attendance to speak on this request.
 - The biggest barrier to having a full District 14 Tech Rescue Team is funding. Every member is required to have 80 hours of training a year. Currently, every community in District 14 needs to fund this, and community resources are being drained.
 - Currently, District 14 has 29 (23 belong to NERAC region) members, and their goal is to have 40 members. In District 14 there are 23 communities and 17 are NERAC communities. With the current team size of 29, the NERAC hours are 184 hours per month for training.
 - They are seeking to develop a similar model to the NEMTRT, where their drills would be supported by NERAC. They would be a regional resource. The NEMTRT appropriation is \$14,000 per month, and on average only \$6-7,000 is spent. If that entire amount is not fully expended, another team that serves the region could use funding for BF/OT costs.
 - There has been legislation passed in the Commonwealth, identifying 5 tech rescue regions, but there is currently no funding mechanism for the teams, aside from homeland security funding.
 - Chief J. Gilliland: What happened to the proposal to combine the NEMTRT and District 14 Teams? How many call outs does the District 14 Tech Rescue Team see per year?
 - Chief T. Judge: There was an effort to merge the teams but that fell through.
 - Chief B. Miller: There are 6 to 8 call outs per year.
 - M. Foster: It was previously discussed to fund District 14, but there was an issue with members within the NERAC region being paid and the other members being volunteers.
 - Chief T. Judge: There were concerns that there would be a disparity with Central Region communities. They now have the go ahead to request this funding. There is currently no dedicated funding from the Central Council for monthly drills.

MOTION put forth by Chief J. Fisher.

- Table this funding request until the next meeting after looking at the legality and exact numbers for OT for this request.
- Seconded by M. Foster.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, B. Klag.
 - Opposed: none.
 - Abstain: none.
- The motion passed.

Project Updates

Active Shooter Training Supplies – Merrimac PD

- A PO has been issued for the tents, tables, and bungees.
- No responsive quotes were received for the cargo straps or D-rings, and MAPC is working to find a vendor who accepts our terms and can provide items that meet specifications.

Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) Course

- The course was held on August 31, 2021. We had 33 attendees and food costs came in under budget at \$450.00. MAPC is awaiting post-training survey results from the vendor who provided the training – the National Disaster Life Support Foundation.

Burlington Mall Full-Scale Exercise

- The RFP responses are in and we received two proposals. The project contacts forming the evaluation committee are reviewing the proposals and we will meet on Friday, September 10, 2021 to discuss and determine an award.

Domestic Water Supply TTX

- MAPC is working on the PJ for this project.

Salem Haunted Happenings Tabletop Exercise

- The PO was issued to Ascentra and this project is moving along quickly due to the tight timeline of holding the TTX before October.
- The Initial Planning Meeting and Midterm Planning Meeting have already occurred, and the Final Planning Meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021.
- The Tabletop Exercise is scheduled for September 28, 2021.
- MAPC has worked to ensure the TTX will include Salem Hospital, as well as surrounding communities as players.
- We will use this TTX as an opportunity to highlight NERAC's cache and other regional assets. Chief J. Fisher is serving on the planning team and will coordinate the presence of the NEMLEC command bus to be used during the TTX.
- Ascentra inquired about who should be participants and observers from surrounding communities for the TTX. This will be discussed further with Chief J. Fisher and A. Reilly.
- The project proponents from Salem have inquired about the possibility of providing BF/OT for participants.

MOTION put forth by M. Foster.

- Allocate the \$5,500 remaining in the project line to provide BF/OT for participants.
- Seconded by Chief T. Judge.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, B. Klag.
 - Opposed: none.
 - Abstain: none.
- The motion passed.

SMART Large Animal Rescue Training

- An EHP has been submitted for approval.
- Once we have that approval, MAPC will work to schedule that training sometime in late October/November.
- Per discussions at the last Committee meeting, we will invite Animal Control Officers, Large Animal Veterinarians, and others who would be called to respond in large animal rescue scenarios, such as local farmers with lift equipment/familiarity with the animals.

Northeast Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team

- After Action Report: July 2021 Rope Rescue Drill
 - I. McGregor was in attendance and presented the AAR.
 - This drill incorporated new rope equipment, techniques, and a simplified highline rigging plan.

- Overall, the facilitator staff was happy to see the level of involvement and participation of a mid-summer drill. NEMTRT will continue to advance the members training techniques to incorporate rope rescue best practices.
- Conference Request: 2021 International Technical Rescue Symposium
 - I. McGregor presented the request for a total of \$1,267.61 to attend the conference.
 - There is currently \$5,020.04 of unallocated Technical Rescue funding.

MOTION put forth by Chief J. Fisher.

- Approve the July 2021 Rope Rescue Drill AAR and utilized a portion of the \$5,020.04 of unallocated FFY19 Technical Rescue funding to fund I. McGregor's \$1,267.61 conference request. Adjourn meeting.
- Seconded by Chief T. Judge.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, B. Klag.
 - Opposed: none.
 - Abstain: none.
- The motion passed.

**** Next Meeting: October 14, 2021 @ 12:00pm ****

ATTENDEES – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chief Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department*

Chief J. Fisher: Carlisle Police Department*

Mark Foster: Director, Beverly Emergency Management*

Chief Thomas Judge: Concord Fire Department*

Bill Klag: Emergency Preparedness Director, North Shore Medical Center*

ABSENT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jon Brickett: Executive Director, Northeast EMS*

Chief Brian Moriarty: Lawrence Fire Department *

John Sanchez: Burlington Public Works*

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Chief Eric Shears: Merrimac Police Department

Chief Bill Miller: Hopkinton Police Department

Heather Tecce: MEMA Region 1

Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department

Lauren Sacks: MAPC

Amy Reilly: MAPC

Heather Tecce: MEMA

Iain McGregor: NEMTRT

Vicky Mboka-Boyer: EOPSS

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- July 8, 2021 meeting minutes
- September 2021 Budget Update
- Active Shooter Equipment Funding Request: GunSHOT Box

- District 14 Tech Rescue Information
- After Action Report: July 2021 Rope Rescue Drill
- Exercise Funding Request: November 2021 International Technical Rescue Symposium