



MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT 7

Chief Stephen M. Coleman Jr., Auburn
Chairman
(508) 832-7800

Chief Robert Parsons, Spencer
Vice Chairman
(508) 867-8825

Chief William Kessler, Uxbridge
Treasurer
(508)-278-2787

Chief Mark DiFronzo, Southbridge
Secretary
(508)-764-5430

District 7 Meeting Minutes December 5, 2013 Dudley Gendron-156 Boston Road Sutton, MA 6:30 p.m.

Called to Order – 7:18 pm

Treasurer report read

M Chief Belsito to accept as read
S Capt. Furno
V Unanimous

Secretary report, minutes were emailed

M Chief Belsito to accept as sent
S Capt. Furno
V Unanimous

Committee Reports:

➤ **Training Committee**

Minutes have been filed with the secretary.

Class average 83

Requirements of 10 year old gear discussed. Has to be addressed, D7 training has accepted the rule; gear older than 10 years is not acceptable for live fire evolutions. There are some companies that offer rental gear at reasonable rates. Mask fit testing also discussed. It is in the future, not sure of implementation. D7 Training Committee is recommending implementation.

Request for the District to split cost for fit test. Total \$555 split 1100

M Chief Kessler
S Chief Vinson
V

Discussion about different models and manufacturers, the candidate needs to be tested with mask they are using. Motion withdrawn for further review . . .

➤ **So. Worc. County Radio Committee**

Ragged Hill site is final . . . system has been tuned and fully operational. Very costly system to operate will be some money to repair if needed.

Link in Northbridge will be moved to Oxford Tower in response to Northbridge no longer being the Alternate Control Point in the future.

➤ **Back Up Control Point Committee**

No meeting No report

➤ **Homeland Security**

Report read and filed

One item of note: Those fire departments wishing the response of the Worcester Bomb dog you need to have a separate mutual aid agreement with the City. This is being coordinated and signed by your local Police Chief. FYI Auburn has bomb dog as well, and is available if needed.

➤ **Tech Rescue Committee**

Contract has been signed for the classes. Dates have been set.

Ropes Ops in North Brookfield (2 classes)

Confined Space in Oxford (2 classes)

Trench Rescue in Sutton (2 classes)

Rope Technician in Sutton (1 class) Purgatory

Rope ops in Auburn (1 class) TENTATIVE

There will be an evaluation and potential sign-off for those people meeting certain training requirements. Contact the Tech Committee with questions / concerns on the documentation.

A practice day has been set, Dec 20, 2103 4:00pm to 10:00pm in Sutton

The Evaluation has been scheduled for Dec 29, 2013 9:00am to 3:00pm in Sutton

Skill Sheets are available from the Tech Committee, Chief Bemis to e-mail.

Still finalizing the District Equipment List, if you have equipment you want listed for the team, notify Chief Bemis ASAP

Still finalizing team members, get this information to Chief Bemis ASAP to be finalized.

Team SOG's completed and will be ready for the January meeting.

Request Tech Rescue Committee to be established and function similar to the Training Committee, allowed to manage the program and team members (day to day operations). All policy changes would come before the District for approval.

M Chief Bemis to allow the Tech Committee to operate in the same manner as the Training Committee responsible for day to day and operational decisions.

S Chief Wilson

V Unanimous

State Tech Rescue Discussion on setting up legislation for a State Tech Rescue Oversight Committee.

Make-up would be 11 members comprised of

- Fire Chiefs
- PFFM,
- Rep from Call/Volunteer
- FCAM Chief
- Rep from the Marshall's Office

Looking to set up a Trust Fund as a means to sustain the program. Some suggestions include;

- Annual fee for large industry/business and agencies identifying Fire Dept. as designated confined space team,
- Attach a fee to trench permits, confined space permits, etc.
- This fund would be overseen by the Committee.

State tech Committee met with Homeland Security Chiefs in many regions to discuss allocating some of the Homeland Security funds from each Region to the Tech Rescue Committee to direct where it would be needed.

Future plan is to have a Tech Rescue Chief in the bunker who can direct State Resources. (This is why it is imperative for us to get our equipment/team finalized and typed)

Presently, DCR/Environmental Police and FEMA USAR teams fill that emergency support function. There is no knowledge at the State level of what teams and resources are available.

The Dive Teams are considered part of Tech Rescue.

Professional Engineers and Building Inspectors are looking to offer services. Current recommendation is with specialized collapse training, these people could be very valuable for post disaster evaluations of structures.

➤ **Call Chief's Committee**

Call Chiefs met last month

ISO program available for Call Chiefs soon

E-Blended for Call/Vol Program

Gear was brought up as well; there are some rental gear companies available.

➤ **State Mobilization**

E911 Dispatch 4 hr. training will be included along with State Mobilization activation.

MEMA will be doing the activations; implementation is soon, protocols to be written. Quincy response was discussed they do not get along with some surrounding communities DCR took control of fire. There were some issues with command and control with mutual aid towns. Chief Goodale spoke on the incident; D7 did a great job given the situation. Response to Hadley went well also Chief O'Brien is retiring a successor has been suggested.

Next meeting 1/22/2014

➤ **EMS Committee**

Has met and reviewed the “charge” given (to be sent to all)
Survey has been sent out please return
They are available as a resource to any community
Community Paramedic Program rolling out very quickly. It has been suggested the committee work on this very hot issue

➤ **FCAM Report**

Developing business plan for community para-medicine. A lot of sign-offs need to be approved. If you don't do the program, someone will.
Presentation from the engineering department of WPI

Old Business:

➤ **Meeting with D14**

Productive meeting
Meet and greet
We will be meeting quarterly
Interested in using strike teams to D14
Compiling resource list between Districts
Joint training perhaps once a year

➤ **Strike Team Realignment**

E-Board met to review and recommended to keep as is, minus Paxton. Worcester sends 2 engines and 1 ladder. It is equal to other teams.
2 changes recommended.
Webster to remove Rescue
Auburn tower change to engine

➤ **Communication Operators**

Dave Clemmons has provided us a training outline and materials. E-Board has been given the info. Meeting planned prior to January Monthly meeting.

New Business:

➤ **Box 4 Canteen Truck (guest speaker)**

- Steve and Angelo spoke to the group
- Same service as Providence Canteen. It is available 24/7. Contact (508) 799-FIRE (3473).
- If requested, they are looking for fuel in return. If you are unable, they cannot come out.
- Web site is Box4canteen.org
- They are a 501c3 organization not affiliated with any municipality
- 1500 meals per day capable
- Priority is to the City of Worcester.
- Towns are advised to check with legal counsel on re-fueling truck (private donations are acceptable in lieu of the refuel)
- Radio Freq request
 - They are looking for permission for use of frequencies from communities. If you would like them to operate on your frequency, they need a letter of permission. Please contact them for specifics.
 - Suggest using D-7 Orange They have permission to use Org/Red/Blue
 - If necessary they can call the Control Point to notify requesting community of response.

➤ **Discussion of FC30 leaving Worcester**

Chief Dio is looking for someone else to host FC 30 (field comm unit).

Southbridge has expressed interest in hosting unit.

M Chief Wilson to move FC 30 from Worcester to Southbridge

S Chief Kessler

V Unanimous

Chief DiFronzo to work with the Radio Committee on what to do with the Comm Unit currently in Southbridge. (the old Spencer Unit)

➤ **Good of the Organization**

- Deputy Marshall Ostroskey spoke to the group
Sean Murray new MFA Director trying to get to a meeting
New Fire Codes going from 527 CMR to NFPA 1 base code with amendments still moving through the process, maybe Jan 2014
Appeals Board is now operational
- Chief Goodale spoke on IAFC and VCOS. Potential conference here in New England area similar to the one in Florida. He encouraged members not affiliated with the IAFC or VCOS to join.

➤ **Strategic Planning Breakfast in the future, Saturday in January.**

➤ **D 7 wishes Chief Dio Happy 60th Birthday.**

➤ **Check made out for breakfast recognition (\$100) for new Sturbridge Chief David Zinther.**

Breakfast recognition is Dec 16, 2013 8:30am – 10:00am at Sturbridge Town Hall

Selectmen Meeting to confirm appointment Dec 16, 2013 at 6:30 pm. For anyone attending please wear your duty uniform to breakfast and Class A to BOS meeting. RSVP to Chief Coleman.

Next Meeting: January 23, 2014

Adjourn 20:57