



MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT 7

Chief Matthew R. Belsito, Sutton
Chairman
(508) 865-8737

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

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

Chief Richard P. Hamilton, Millbury
Secretary
(508) 865-5328

District 7 Meeting Minutes January 24, 2019 - 6:30 p.m. Dudley-Gendron American Legion Post, Sutton

Call to Order – 19:05 by Chairman Belsito
Pledge of Allegiance
29 in attendance from 17 Towns/Cities and 3 Organizations

Treasurer and Secretary Report

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept both as emailed

S – Chief White

V – Unanimous

MEMA: Kristen Jerome was deployed to Rhode Island through EMAC is unable to attend tonight.

DCR: D7 Warden Roy Liard: They have their seasonal roster and will have 3 instead of 4, two of them will be back March 17th and the other on March 31st, they will be on until October 15th, they are working on the 2-year audit of excess property, there is no access now to excess property information due to the government shutdown, e-mail Roy with any needs you have. Fire weather had started with the start of the season, it was stopped due to the weather and will restart once the ground is bare. The Wardens are still not sworn in to enforce laws, the district will write a letter in support of this. They are slowly replacing some vehicles, they hope for three to five trucks a year. Roy will be at a conference next week, contact MEMA if you need assistance.

SWIFT WATER: Dive Master Brian Sheridan put on a presentation on swift water rescue in District 7. They are creating SOPs and equipment usage. They are proposing joining a collaborative to make a 45-member team (15 in each district), that would meet the standards for a Swift Water Team that could be deployed anywhere (if the three districts combine: 7, 8 and 14, they will be). They are planning 3 days of training, they would be able to do local and long distance, modeling after Plymouth County, equipment housed in Auburn (Homeland Security funded), members need their chief's support. The next steps: Approval from the District, pick teams and begin training. Chairman Belsito stated this was discussed at the Tech Team meeting.

M – Chief Coleman: For the District to support the upstart of the Central Region Swift Water Team.

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

Chief Coleman stressed Chiefs need to understand that if a Chief sponsor a member they may need to provide funding for up to a 2-week period. There are multiple criteria for members, they will need very good medical records.

HRD DOG: Brian Sheridan then gave a presentation on cadaver dogs. He explained the difference between police K-9 and a cadaver dog, they sense a decomposing odor and not a live scent, they generally do one or the other and can also track over water. They may not pinpoint to the exact spot but will be very close to the area. Chief Coleman stated they were looking for the District's support for the project.

M – Chief Parsons: For the District to support the HRD Dog program

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

OUT OF STATE MUTUAL AID: Fire Marshal Ostroskey explained the varies state laws and compacts that cover going mutual aid to another state. There is no coverage unless there is a mutual aid agreement or a state of emergency has been declared. He introduced Steve Rourke and Glenn Rooney, DFS Council and Deputy Council, who presented a program of the details of the varies mutual aid coverage. They distributed a chart of comparison of laws, a copy of Chapter 21 and a copy of a sample agreement. They explained in detail the difference between Chapter 48 section 59A, Chapter 40 s.4J, EMAC and IEMAC. EMAC covers all 50 states, IEMAC covers the New England States and Canadian Provinces, whereas chapter 48 section 59A and Chapter 40 s.4J both cover intrastate only. The best practice is to use 40 s.4J as a template to create an agreement with other states. The Marshal may resubmit Chapter 40 s.4J and remove the law enforcement component, which is what changed it last time. The Marshal explained what all the agreements meant, individually towns can have their own agreements, the going out of state. If EMAC is activated, then all will be covered. Without any agreement, your on your own. If you have Homeland Security equipment, you are not compelled or can't be required to respond with it anywhere. Chief Coleman explained how the district collectively accepted Chapter 48 section 59A years ago to protection each town. Our by-laws state we provide mutual aid within district 7. Chief Coleman felt we should change our by-laws to include other districts. We should use Chapter 40 s.4J in any future agreements. Mobilization agreements cover Tech Teams, etc. A check by Chief Parsons showed some town in District 8 have not accepted Chapter 40 s.4J. Spec. Ops Chief Fleischer asked if FCAM should be involved with this. Chief Coleman will check. Chairman Belsito will bring it to the state level with the Tech Teams.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Training:

Chief Vinson: Dr. Griffin seminar on PTSD & FF suicide booked for March 21st at the Dudley-Gendron in Sutton, \$20-\$25 for meal, seminar costs covered by the district, e-mail will go out. The FDSS pump program was tabled due to cost. They met with the State Fire Marshal regarding certifications and challenging exams, Marshal Ostroskey explained the certifications will change because of changes in NFPA standards, they will need to comply with Pro-Board guidelines, some formats may need to change and include a practical component. It is DFS feeling that you should be able to take an exam without attending a course at MFA, they don't have the staff to conduct all the necessary classes that would be required. The next All Hands Herald will have more information on this.

- Radio

Chief Hamilton: They had a request from a chief for some documents on the use on the orange channel, they starting working on a set of guidelines for the use of all common channels, some are requirements that apply to district licensed frequencies, some are guidance on other channels' uses

- FCAM

Chief Coleman: OSHA update discussed, still a Feb 1st start date, Brookfield, Southbridge and Spencer had voluntary inspections, 3 different inspectors and 3 different inspections entirely, Brookfield and Southbridge had minor safety related recommendations, Spencer had major items along with records review, they looked back at a couple of years of injury records to see causes, FCAM is having an HR professional come talk to the group. Marshal Ostroskey had an update on the gear extractor program, it wasn't funded properly, the money was allocated but without a mechanism to spend it, they are working on correcting it.

- Homeland Security: No update

- Tech Rescue

Chairman Belsito: District 7, 8, and 14 Tech/Dive Team—Central Mass Tech/Dive Rescue Team Consortium — At the recent Tech Committee meeting we voted in favor of moving forward with a stand-alone Team (separate) made up of 15-members currently in good standing from either Dive or Tech Team's that could be deployed in-State or out of State for up to two weeks. Team members would have to hit bench mark's for FEMA typing and training. We want to at the very least be considered a FEMA type II Team. Potential member Chief's must be on-board with this right from the get go. Also, members will be required to fill out another application to their current one which is in the process of being created. Brian Sheridan is heading this up. Discussion followed with the requirements for an immunization record for team members. Next meeting is March 13th 1:00 at Hopkinton Fire. There will be two heavy rescue classes coming up, wide area search classes 3/26 to 3/28, squad leaders are changed to team leaders on Tech Team, they are starting tiered responses for tech so the entire group is not called for everything, a large confined space training will be held at UMass arranged by Spec. Ops Chief Fleischer, there will be a Tech demo at the Tri-State meet.

- State Mobilization: No update

- EMS

Chief Normandin: Looking for support for additional Homeland funding, follow information on e-mail and send a letter of support.

- Communication Team: No meeting

OLD BUSINESS

RIT TRAINING: Assistant Chief Johnson reports Captain Brigham just about finished report.

FIT TESTER: Chairman Belsito had two quotes obtained through Chief Hickey. Discussion took place, Deputy Chief Tancrell explained Chief Dion offered Uxbridge's fit tester for District use. He asked the cost of annual calibration be covered (\$900 per year) and the cost of any adapters needed (about \$200 each), it is mobile.

M – Chief Vinson: To use Uxbridge's fit tester and cover the calibration costs

S – Chief Parsons

V – Unanimous

This motion was amended by Chief Coleman for the district to purchase any adapters needed:
Unanimous

TRADE SCHOOLS: Chief Coleman: The banner is in and on display at tonight's meeting, they e-mailed the school to get the banner hung and promote the club. He was looking to see how we could work with DFS to market this program. They will basically run the FF I/II curriculum in the club. They will attend a school committee meeting to discuss it.

RESCUE UNIVERSITY 2019: Chairman Belsito: Everything moving along, Wyman-Gordon location is confirmed, they are meeting 2/7 at 3:00.

NEW BUSINESS

9-1-1 SYSTEM OUTAGE: Marshal Ostroskey explained the recent issue with the state 9-1-1 system. He stated the landline 9-1-1 system never went down. The wireless portion had trouble with parts of the system didn't allow calls to go through. The FCC is involved with the investigation. The information flow was not good to notify public safety and the public regarding the outage. PSAP centers were notified right away but the issues on public relations regarding details of the issue and ongoing updates were not well, they tried to use MEMA but some information didn't go out properly.

EOPS CHANGES: Marshal Ostroskey explained the recent changes, Tom Turco is the new Secretary of Public Safety, a new slate of undersecretaries, Pat McMurray is out as Undersecretary of Homeland Security, Secretary Turco is personally helping the Bridgewater facility get built, Bridgewater should be the tech rescue specialty center. Chief Coleman suggested we invite Secretary Turco to the next meeting.

Good of the Organization

DISTRICT FIU: Chief Silver: two new members to the team that hold basic fire investigation certificates and will take the advanced class, he would like to bring the team out to more incidents, he suggested the D7 FIU Team be added to your run cards, some already have.

M – Chief Parsons: To adjourn

S – Chief Kessler

V – Unanimous

Adjourned 21:30

Next Meeting: February 28th, Auburn

Dates to Remember

February 7th 15:00, next Rescue University meeting
February 26th to 28th – FCAM Professional Development Conference, Worcester
March 21st – Dr. Griffin's PTSD & FF Suicide Seminar in Sutton
March 26th & 28th – Wide Area Search class
May 6th & 7th – FPAM Educational Conference, Southbridge
May 19th – Tri-State Firefighters Meet in Webster
October 25th & 26th – Rescue University in Grafton

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
January 24, 2019**

Name	Affiliation
Bill Kessler	Mendon
ED KNOFF	CHARLTON
Bob Silver	Millbury
Rick PHILLIPS	BROOKFIELD
Peter Matell	Brookfield
Jim Wilson	Road Committee
Paul Norman	Southbridge
Kent Hinson	Douglas
Ed Passas	Sperma
RICH HAMILTON	MILLBURY

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
January 24, 2019**

Name	Affiliation
DAVID WHIFT	NORTHBRIDGE
STEVEN R. DUPRE	NORTHBRIDGE
ROBERT K. LACHAPELLE	NORTHBRIDGE
Megan Beltr	SUTTON
Keith Newland	MILLBURY
Glenn Johnson	AUBURN
JASON CANTARA	CHARLTON
Stephen Coleman	AUBURN
STEVEN TANCRELL	UXBRIDGE
John C. Marinelli	STURBRIDGE
JOSEPH HURK	SOUTHBRIDGE
MARR DiFranco	UPTON

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
January 24, 2019**

Name	Affiliation
Roy Lillard	DCR
Jon Belanger	Oxford
James Bain	East Brookfield
David Messier	East Brookfield
GARY FLEISCHER	WORCESTER FIRE
Peter Ostroskey	DFS
Glenn Rooney	DFS
Steve Rourke	DFS