



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 Chiefs Meeting Minutes February 28, 2019 - 6:30 p.m. Auburn/Webster Elks, 754 Southbridge St, Auburn

Call to Order – 19:10 by Chairman Belsito

Pledge of Allegiance

28 in attendance from 16 Towns/Cities and 2 Organizations

Chairman Belsito introduced the new Secretary of Public Safety, Tom Turco, in attendance tonight

Treasurer and Secretary Report

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept both as emailed

S – Chief Parsons

V – Unanimous

MEMA: Kristen Jerome: Next EMD meeting March 6th at the Worcester EOC at 9:30 am, sandbags will be distributed soon, Samantha Phillips has been appointed as the new Director, map of towns that signed the agreement for statewide mutual aid is on the MEMA website (shaded if they opted in, some also have red striping, for Public Works opt in). (As a note: all of D7 is opted in with 15 of the towns also public works, D8 has 7 towns not opted in: Bolton, Clinton, Gardner, Phillipston, Princeton, Winchendon and Westminster)

DCR: D7 Warden Roy Liard unable to attend tonight.

SECRETARY TURCO: Sworn in three months ago, he explained the new staff. He gave an update on the Bridgewater complex in the works for DFS, discussed the budgets, the OSHA changes and also the OEMS lights and siren talks and how he spoke with the Governor regarding that. Secretary Turco said to contact him with any concerns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Training:

Chief Kessler: Reminder about the Dr. Griffin seminar, the District can bill for it and its worth 3 CEUs.

- Radio

Chief Hamilton: Asked that towns fill in and return the contact information for the Comm trucks, he attended a meeting with Massport concerning the Worcester Airport and communications with them and the District, water concerns were discussed and a combined D7/D8 tanker/tender strike team card was created, the card will be sent out for everyone's review and then for approval by both districts, the City of Worcester and Massport.

- FCAM

Chief Coleman: No update

- Homeland Security:

Chief Kochanowski: Dive Team boat approved, April 2nd planning meeting for the new budget, they will need any new proposals by then, more training now and less money will go towards equipment, they are happy to see more combined teams.

- Tech Rescue

Chairman Belsito: Next combined 7/8/14 meeting March 13th at Hopkinton Fire, still working taking it slow and steady to get it right, wide-area search March 26th, 27th and 28th, large area confined space training at UMass Worcester.

- State Mobilization:

Chief Wilson: New card for Tech Rescue out, task force cards to be reviewed, brush trucks will be typed, \$250,000 grant to have a consultant review the plan and maybe find a better way to update the cards, training module for leaders (Chiefs), Marshal Ostroskey added details of the consultants work which should end June of 2020, discussion followed.

- EMS: No update

- Communication Team:

Chief Lavoie: The equipment is being obtained.

OLD BUSINESS

RIT TRAINING: Chief Coleman introduced Captain Brigham and explained the RIT project. A handout was distributed and Captain Brigham explained in detail what was determined at the RIT weekend and the suggestions the group came up with. They are primarily looking at standardizing procedures throughout the district. It's been many years since the first RIT trainings started. They would like to make a set of SOPs for the District and how to keep trainings continuous and consistent. ICS was a big topic they would like to see a chief officer assigned to a RIT branch before an activation and more autonomy to the RIT. They feel more RIT teams are needed early on and to rotate RIT teams. Trainings should concentrate more on the basics and a real focus on Self Rescue, Saving our Selves (SOS) set of skills very important, break up trainings so they are smaller but done more often, there should be a minimum list of skills and equipment listed (every town should review the list), they need a buy-in from many towns in the district to make this work, the feeling is there is a sense of complacency having a RIT team standing by but not knowing their actual capabilities, we need to be prepared, there is a lot of talent in the district for RIT and we need to put them to use, there is no room for egos. The next step should be training with the chiefs. Question from Deputy Chief Dupre: was communications discussed; Captain Brigham replied; they discussed it but not a lot, the issue of channel changing in an actual incident was talked about and they felt no channel changing should take place (RIT use or fireground use), it should be implemented steady even if it takes little longer. Chief Hickey felt the District shouldn't get back in the training business and the Fire Academy has many trainings for RIT, Captain Brigham felt this is a different way of looking at this, our district runs different than some other types of towns and cities with RIT. Chief Hickey said we need to go deeper and be sure the firefighters are healthy to prevent this from happening in the first place. Chief Coleman said we need to be standard town-to-town within the district. Chief Hamilton said if the district is standard you can mix and match firefighters on scene from different towns and make a RIT team. Marshal Ostroskey explained the Fire Academy provides the basics and then they expect you to mold it to your operations, they may not be able to assemble a team in time, everyone needs to be prepared early. Chief Lavoie asked about the train-the-trainer and how is this different; Captain Brigham said it's not much different, it's a theory change, the skills stay the same. Chairman Belsito felt we are too deep into this, we should take the MFA RIT and then create training standards. Chief Coleman wrapped up the discussion and stated we are looking to add additional skills and standardization. Everyone has the report, review it and send comments to him within 2-weeks. Captain Brigham stated he has been involved in a couple of the actual incidents recently and they have been very different than the trainings have shown.

TRADE SCHOOLS: Chief Coleman will attend a meeting at Baypath March 4th then a working group will put together a syllabus.

RESCUE UNIVERSITY 2019: Chairman Belsito explained everything is going well, Chief Coleman will be the PIO for the event and Chief Hamilton will coordinate the communications. The game plan is to have 10 stations, they are still working on the final cost (probably \$25 to \$50 each), they have received many donations and commitments. They are looking for a lot of cribbing. Next meeting March 26th in Millbury. The Marshal has offered a Rehab truck from DFS for both days. Med-Star Ambulance will provide EMS both days.

ADDING OUT OF DISTRICT MUTUAL AID TO BY-LAWS: Chief Parsons will look into what will be required to do.

NEW BUSINESS

none

Good of the Organization

Chief Adam Lavoie introduced Captain Scott Bridges, who will be the new delegate for Warren.

M – Chief Parsons: To adjourn

S – Chief Wilson

V – Unanimous

Adjourned 20:40

Next Meeting: March 28th, Auburn

Dates to Remember

March 21st – Dr. Griffin’s PTSD & FF Suicide Seminar in Sutton

March 26th 17:00, next Rescue University meeting in Millbury

March 26th, 27th, 28th – Wide Area Search class

Heavy Rescue classes

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
February 28, 2019**

Name	Affiliation
Bob Silver	Millbury
Mark Strom	millbury
Adam Lovett	Warren
Scott Bridges	warren
Joseph Holway	North Brookfield
Kristen Jerome	MEMA
Joseph Huric	SPRINGFIELD
Jon Belanger	Oxford
Paul Ronjeczny	Dudley
Brian Hickey	Webster
DEAN Kochanowski	Dudley

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
February 28, 2019**

Name	Affiliation
Bob Passaro	Spencer
Corey Lacaine	SPENCER
James Bain	East Brookfield
Michael Estrook	East Brookfield
Rick Phillips	BROOKFIELD
Bob Wilson	LEICESTER
Peter Ostroskey	DFS
Stephen Coleman	Auburn
Rich Hamilton	MILLBURY
Bill Kessler	Mendon

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
February 28, 2019**

Name	Affiliation
DAVID WHITE	NORTHBRIDGE
STEVEN R. Dwyne	Northbridge
ROBERT K. LACHAPPELLE	NORTHBRIDGE
MATT BELVID	SUTTON
MICKY GAUTHIER	GRAFTON
JIM BARKER	GRAFTON