

Hazmat/Decontamination
Technical Advisory Committee
MINUTES
October 17, 2006

New members attending the TAC meeting were introduced.

Regional Grants

Bill Brobst and Tim Flack reported to the TAC concerning their regional meeting with OEMA Grants Division. The grant review committee felt some of the regional applications lacked support data. An example provided was purchasing X Number of Suits for \$Y that would be used by Hazmat Team C in the region. Part of the reason some of the regional applications lacked these details was that the grant requirements for the regional funding was an evolving process over the short time-line for the applications to be submitted. There was discussion concerning improvements in the regional grant process for the next funding cycle. One suggestion to Mel House for further investigation was to have one EMA Director / County apply for all regions. It was felt this might provide consistency in presenting the concept of a plan to the grant review committee. TAC members were congratulated by Mel House on the accomplishments to date of the TAC, including the regional funding project. As all are aware, Homeland Security funding is decreasing and waiting another year would have resulted in even a greater delay in building out Type III capabilities. Regional funding is an evolving process and will improve with future funding cycles. Mel House reminded the TAC members that identified capability gaps can still be filled by individual counties using SHSGP funds.

There was discussion concerning how the TAC will address regions that were not funded with this grant cycle with future funding requests. Specifically the discussion included concepts such as does the TAC propose funding Type III teams statewide prior to moving on Type II and Type I capabilities and issues surrounding this considering some regions were not able to receive funding for Type III this grant cycle. Will teams combined to form a specific type?

ACTION ITEM: Further discussion is required at future TAC meetings concerning the Hazmat TAC build-out plan. The plan should follow the target capabilities and team typing documents previously adopted by the TAC and incorporate risk. – Hazmat TAC members

ACTION ITEM: The TAC chair will forward a copy of the regional application written by Region #8. This application was well written and could possibly be used by other regions for future funding requests. - Greg Locher

Verification

Several members of the TAC conducted a conference call prior to the TAC meeting concerning verification. (See Action Item from September Meeting) Members included, Greg Locher, Mark Vedder, Steve Ashbrock (US&R TAC Chair), Jeff Corder, and Ohio EMA. The purpose of the conference call was to lay the groundwork for the verification discussion at the TAC meeting. Several verification models were discussed: 1) Firescope Model, 2) US&R TAC Model, and 3) Hazmat TAC subcommittee concepts. Greg Locher gave the TAC a brief overview of the Firescope and US&R TAC models. Steve Ashbrock provided two documents that were used by the US&R TAC during their verification process. These documents were e-mailed to all TAC members prior to the meeting. Mark reminded TAC members that FEMA Team Typing looks at entry teams only, while the Ohio Team Typing recognizes that there are a variety of components necessary to make an entry (research, decon, ect.) Mark Vedder then lead a facilitated discussion asking the TAC several questions:

- 1) Why do we want to do verification? Discussion points included ensure proper response, evolving process-we also need to support capabilities, honesty through outside verification, and accountability of funding for equipment.
- 2) Who do we verify? All types of teams? Only Type I or Type II? Spot checks? 10% audit like the state with EMT certifications? Do we validate teams every 4 years through the LEPC exercises?

There was discussion concerning these points and potential verification issues. One important factor was would the process really work and Local versus State/Regional members on the verification teams.

One of the points of discussion from the conference call was a request to Ohio EMA for personnel support in scheduling verification visits, managing the paperwork, enter the database, and assisting in the verification process. Mel House offered Ohio EMA support though the Field Liaison Officers.

Mark concluded the discussion with a broad outline of the subcommittee's thoughts concerning how to develop the verification process.

ACTION ITEM: Typing/Verification Subcommittee will take feedback from this TAC meeting and develop a Verification Process document for consideration by the TAC. – Mark Vedder

SAC/OFC Update

Harry Burdick and Mel House provided an update of the SAC meeting. Harry Burdick represented the Hazmat TAC at this meeting as both chairs were unable to attend. Mel House provided background information on the purpose of the SAC meetings.

Jim Williams

Jim Williams has submitted his resignation as chair of the Hazmat TAC. Jim cited personal health issues and feels unable to continue to devote the time necessary to the chair position. Another chairperson will be required assist in Jim's absence. Greg Locher requested members of the Hazmat TAC continue to use Jim Williams as a resource in developing future proposals/documents. Jim is willing to be a "senior advisor" and would like to stay in touch with the Hazmat field.

Mel House stated he has talked with Jim and congratulated him on his efforts to date with the Hazmat TAC.

SOG's – Jeff Branic

Due to time limitations, discussion of current SOG's was forwarded to the next TAC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Next TAC meeting, the current SOG and a future SOG developed by the subcommittee will be discussed. Sil Caggino / Jeff Branic

ACTION ITEM: Communication SOG to be reviewed by the INTEROPERABLE COMMMS TAC- Tim Flack

ACTION ITEM: Response SOG to OFC Association for review/input- Tom Beatty

ACTION ITEM: Additional Notification Topic brought up by Tom Beatty. Fire Response Center looking for one (1) contact per region when requesting resources. The committee discussed the reasons for this and how this can/will be addressed. A sub-committee will look into this issue. Further discussion/details at next TAC---Tom Beatty

