

ORS TAC MINUTES

Department of Public Safety
1970 W. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43223



ORS

Date: October 16, 2012

File Number:

TAC: Hazmat TAC

Approved:

From: Mark Vedder

HazMat TAC Meeting at Ohio EMA

Attendees: See attached list

- I. Welcome:** Hazmat TAC Co-Chair Mark Vedder welcomed all the attendees.
- II. Minutes:** Review and Approval of Minutes from September 2012 Meeting- approved
- III. Old Business:**
 - a. Site Visits to Schedule?**
 - Vedder: The goal was set last year to try to schedule four site verification visits a month. We have not been meeting this objective. All regional coordinators are encouraged to reach out to the unverified teams to get them scheduled. Vedder reported it may be easier to get the final items necessary to verify if there is a written deficiency to take to the AHJ.
 - Jaksetic reported via email that Toledo might schedule early 2013 for Type 1 and that Van Wert should be scheduled soon for Type 3..
 - Question: What if some teams don't want to complete verification? Vedder answered that if the team accepted grant funds from the OEMA, they agreed to complete their team typing and to undergo verification. If they fail to do so, they would be in violation of the grant award document and would need to repay the funds. We all hope that it won't come to that, Vedder reported he would prefer working it out. If they did not accept funds from the OEMA it is not an issue and they would just need to be removed from the ORS database.
 - b. Update on CBRNE Working Group – Bindernagel**
 - Bindernagel was not present at the meeting, but notes from the October 12th meeting should be out soon.
 - The second survey is now finished. They are reviewing the results now and will have a meeting soon to share the findings.
 - They are planning to move forward and scheduling a leadership meeting in mid-Nov.
 - c. HMO/HMSO Training – Phil Johnson**
 - Johnson was not present at the meeting, but Vedder reported that they hoped to hear on the DHS approval soon. He reported that classes can be scheduled using local finds, LEPC funds, HMEP funding or PUCO grants. Lucas County reports they ran the first classes last month and that more are scheduled. Just don't schedule classes with SHSGP or UASI funds until DHS approves. Classes can be scheduled through the OFA.

d. ODPS Certification of Hazmat/WMD Technicians – Brobst

- Brobst was not present at the meeting but sent an update via email.
- Vedder advised that a whitepaper had been prepared by the TAC supporting the idea of creating a state certification for Hazmat/WMD Technician. He advocated sending it to the fire agencies of the state, including the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, Ohio State Fireman's Association, the Ohio Fire Instructors, The Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters, the EMS Board and Fire Committee as well as others. It is important that we solicit support for the effort; and the white paper should help with rumor control as it clarifies our proposal.
- Vedder added that it will take a lot of lobbying, the effort will require a lot of work, time to do it, and people to help push it forward.
- Truesdale said he supports moving forward- the best opportunity is now, and it is the next logical step to finish the model that we have built.
- Vedder commented that they have had difficulty on some of the site verifications visits due to differing training requirements for continuing education. Having a state certification will help address this concern.
- Vedder gave a brief review of what the white paper says including grandfathering and continuing education requirements. He encouraged folks to go to the TAC website to review the white paper. www.ohiohazmattac.com
- Motion to move forward with sending out the white paper by Matzen, second by Truesdale. All voted to approve.

e. Ohio Hazmat Teams Conference – Vedder

- Vedder reminded everyone of the Ohio Hazmat Teams Conference to be held on Nov 2-3, 2012 in Solon, OH. The conference is free and there will be 11 classes available with nationally known instructors. Register on line at www.ohiohazmatconference.com

f. Update on Trumbull County Hazmat Team – Caggiano

- Trumbull County Hazmat is still out of service for regional response due to an issue with workers comp. No additional info was available as Sil Caggiano was not at the meeting.

IV. New Business:

- a. Review by Regional Coordinators of Hazmat Coverage – Vedder** asked each regional coordinator to explain how coverage was accomplished in their region with Type 1, 2 and 3 response, if any gaps existed and any concerns for the future.

Region 1:

- Van Wert County- close to Type 3 visit. The Chief is working on the application package. Not currently on the map at all.
- Hancock County/Findlay- They have funding to build out a Type 3. Troy Stoner (Toledo FD) is in charge of this. Working on getting things in order to establish team. Offering training in Lucas and Allen County too in future and doing a joint drill- still a ways off. Have 12 members committed to team already, working with volunteers to get more.
- Paulding County, Defiance County, and others on the map with no team listed- who is covering these places right now? Maybe normal FDs? HazMat teams not on map? The HazMat teams in Van Wert/Putnam/Williams can respond (35-45 min travel time). Are there formal MOUs in this area?

- Auglaize County- unverified Type 3, not sure where they are at in the process. Heard they were looking at going to a Type 2, but have yet to verify as a Type 3.
- Toledo Team- working on it.
- Lucas County- have a decon trailer; the truck for it is coming in today. Did a good drill with 4 CSTs over 3 days.
- Some 2012 HSGP grant notifications went out. Toledo got an award.

Region 2:

- There is a team in each county.
- There are two Type 1 Teams. One in Lake County and one in Cuyahoga County.
- Geauga and Ashtabula not verified yet, but do have teams that respond. Will probably need to have MOUs to meet the man-power requirements (this is ok, if you have a process, agreement, and train/drill together).

Region 3:

- Denny Bristow was not present to report.
- Rich Maier- attended Montgomery County exercise- Dayton Fire/HM may look for more people to assist Denny with the team.

Region 4:

- Bill Brobst was not present to report but sent an email.
- In the region there is one Type 1 team, five Type 2s, three Type 3s, and all have been verified except the Type 3s- one has verified and the others have not.
- Fayette has been schedule several times and has canceled each time
- Have been meeting regionally and buying equipment, participation is high and going well

Region 5:

- In the region there are seven Type 2s and 1 Type 1 verified.
- The 8th Type 2 will be Columbiana County.
- Tuscarawas County is sharing resources with Stark County to cover
- Richland and Ashland Counties share a Type 2 team. Question on if they should verify the Type 3 teams individually?
- Other unverified Type 3 teams- not sure where they are in the process.

Region 6:

- Greater Cincinnati HazMat Team (GCHM) covers 3 counties: Warren, Clermont, and Highland
- Brown County is thinking about joining GCHM? Moving trailer?
- Hamilton County- The Type 3 Team is Harrison FD; they go into IN a lot.
- Preble County is covered by Butler and Montgomery Counties?
- Butler- Type 3 in NW corner maybe?

Region 7:

- Chief Roberts not present
- Athens County- still developing? Personnel challenge

Region 8:

- Vedder reported that Jeff Corder will be retiring in January. He has proposed that Doug Hobson take his place. Vedder introduced Doug Hobson.
- Coshocton County has been verified as a Type 2 verified
- Jefferson County- has equip, needs nailed down to schedule verification
- Muskingum County- doing a Technician class Oct 22-Nov 5 with Zanesville FD and others in area. Team medical physicals are done, Type 2 is almost ready.
- Guernsey, Muskingum, and Washington Counties all Type 3s but have equip for Type 2s.
- Morgan, Harrison, Noble, and Monroe Counties- no idea on current status

V. Partner Agency Updates:

- FBI WMD Coordinator – Rick Meier reported.
 - The monthly bulletins are still coming out, encouraged feedback especially on technical issues.
 - Looking at doing a Critical Infrastructure/Agro Terrorism conference in Columbus for this FY.
 - Questions on HM response to typical powder letter- how far do you go into testing, buying kits, etc.?
 - Answer from Maier: If there is a **threat and/or suspect biological material** FBI will pursue the case even if the on scene threat assessment determines the incident to be a hoax/non-credible threat. FBI is obligated to collect potential biological evidence and take it to ODH lab (CDC approved Laboratory Response Network (LRN) facility) to test for the CDC standard Biological Select Agents panel. Results are sent by ODH to the effected local Public Health Department, FBI follows up with Local PH and Local Police Department/Sheriff's Office and exposed victims associated with the case.
 - If you are thinking about doing a field test or field screening, consider the amount of material available to test. Unadulterated samples to send to the LRN/ODH are ideal. If there is an identified federal/FBI nexus to the incident, there may not need to perform field tests to identify the biological agent. FBI would request a field screening at the scene, which should include radiation screening (gamma), volatile organic/flammable chemicals, toxic chemicals (ie Multi-Rae Screening or equivalent), and screened for explosives/energetic materials to determine if it is safe to send to the ODH/LRN facility (this is a FBI and LRN policy/protocol).
 - If additional field testing or field screening are determined necessary by the Incident Commander in the interest of public health or public safety, the FBI will coordinate any evidence and investigative issues with the IC in the interest of overall public health/safety. Evidence is secondary to public safety/health.
 - Vedder- Type 1 teams are required to have some testing equip for determining public safety. FBI may rely on a local HMT or Ohio National Guard CST to collect samples, depending upon threat credibility and availability of an FBI Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) or FBI Evidence Response Team (ERT). There have been issues in the past with inconsistent results from some field testing kits (false positives or false negatives). Therefore, the FBI Laboratory

and CDC recommendation is to conduct field screening and then transport the suspected biological threat agent to the LRN. Conduct additional biological field testing if necessary to maintain immediate public safety, determine decon protocols or PPE selection for responders.

- Maier: For clarification as defined for the FBI:
 - Field Screening as outlined above: radiation screening (gamma), volatile organic/flammable chemicals, toxic chemicals (ie Multi-Rae Screening or equivalent), and screened for explosives/energetic materials; **pH or water content if sample is a liquid.**
 - Field Testing: Additional test to identify a specific agent.

- OEPA – Not present.
- OFA – Printed the Ops Module 3, Jan 10 tentative date for TTT Mission Spec Ops. Jan 9 HM Technician Level TTT, Jan 1 HM Awareness Level TTT
- CST – Canton Exercise on Nov 14th (call Jeremy Ford, 614-419-8892 if interested). Another exercise in December in Detroit. All have an open invite to all exercises.
- ODH – Not present.
- OFCA – Nothing to report. Asked about any update on the BlueCard Program? Vedder has not heard anything from Tammy or Phil.
- OEMA, RAD – Not present. Sarah Moore- nothing to report
- US- DHS – Not present.

VI. Action Items for next meeting:

- Moore to send Vedder the contact list for HM Teams and link to Co EMA Directors POCs, email to Vedder to send to group
- All regional liaisons need to dig for more HM Teams in each region, make sure each county is covered by a team
- Matzen announced a free training opportunity- will send to Vedder to email to group

VII. Next Meeting: November 20, 2012 at 1000-1200 @ Conference Call

Respectfully,
Mark Vedder, Chairman