

ORS TAC MINUTES

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

Date: August 20, 2013
TAC: HM TAC
From: Mark Vedder

File Number:
Approved:



1. **Attendees:** See attached sign-in.
2. The meeting was held at the Ohio EMA and was called to order at 1000 hrs. Co-Chair Mark Vedder thanked everyone for attending and the sign in sheet was passed around.
3. The minutes of the July conference call were reviewed. Motion by Chief Truesdale, second by Brooke Matzen to approve. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. **Old Business:**

a. Site Visits

Region 1: Van Wert

Chief Truesdale reported that he, Harry Burdick and Jim Painter conducted a site visit at Van Wert FD on August 9. They reported that everything was in order and they recommended approval of the verification of Van Wert as a Type III Hazmat Team. Motion by Truesdale, second by Burdick to approve the verification. It was unanimously approved. Completed site visit paperwork was submitted to Jim Dwertman.

b. Meeting with Tammy Little – Ohio EMA

Vedder advised that some clarification was necessary from the minutes of the last meeting. At his meeting with Tammy, she stated that she would investigate whether the contract language would allow any type of enforcement action against those who accepted funds to build capabilities and who now did not wish to verify. The previous minutes indicated that OEMA would enforce, but the correct information is that they are investigating whether it is possible. They are reviewing the contracts and gathering grant documentation to determine what requirements were in place in the language of each grant. While it is certainly the position of the Hazmat TAC that if a team accepted grant funds from the Ohio EMA to develop a hazmat response capability, that the capability should be developed and the resource (the hazmat team) should be typed and verified, enforcement will be determined OEMA based upon the exact language of the grant documents

c. Site Visits to be Scheduled – Vedder stated that no additional applications had been submitted and that he would encourage Region 1, 7 and 8 to move forward with site visits. Vedder reported that Dayton FD had contacted him and that they are preparing for a site visit. Vedder stated he is especially anxious to get Toledo, Dayton and Logan verified.

- d. Deadline to Finish Site Visits – Vedder indicated that it had been at least three years since they started the process of site visits to verify hazmat team capabilities and wanted to know the feelings of the committee regarding an end point. We have provided numerous grants to fill gaps in capability or response time and have allowed adequate time (more than three years) to complete the typing process. He suggested that those that had not yet verified may never do so, and should be removed from the Ohio ERP. We have verified those teams that intend to do so, and we continue to expend a significant portion of our meetings trying to get the others to apply. There was considerable discussion on deadlines, what that would mean, what the consequences would be, etc. Several different dates were discussed. Chief Robert Bennett from Napoleon FD suggested that we only verify Type 1 and Type 2 teams since most counties would not be calling the ERP for another Type 3 team. Vedder reported that he had received an email from Bill Brobst suggesting the same thing. Truesdale suggested that it would be improper to drop the requirement now, after some teams went to considerable effort to verify. Other discussion followed. In the end, a motion was made by Brooke Matzen and seconded by Dale Dittrick to request that after December 31, 2013 the Ohio Fire Emergency Response Plan only dispatch hazmat teams who have been verified by the Ohio Hazmat TAC and request that they remove those teams that had self typed but had not yet verified. The motion passed unanimously. The Hazmat TAC will strongly encourage and whole heartedly welcome additional teams to complete their verification, but the ERP will only dispatch verified teams after the end of the year.
- e. ODH Survey and Hazmat Team Database Update: Eric St. Germain provided an update on the ODH survey. He had updates from several other counties and will continue to work on the list. He stated that he is working on northern Ohio again.
- f. Resource Capability Assessment Project (RCAP)
Jim Dwertman reported that Tetra Tech was completing the RCAP and it will be submitted to OEMA.

5. New Business

- a. Chief Robert Bennett from Napoleon FD and Chief Bruce Siders of Bryan FD introduced themselves. They came to the meeting to express their concerns that they were not getting enough information regarding the Hazmat TAC and its decisions. They stated that they currently get no information from their regional coordinator. Vedder apologized for the poor communication and assured them that he would speak with Chief Jaksetic, but reminded them that the TAC meetings are open to all who are interested and encouraged them to become involved. In addition, the minutes are public record and they are welcome to receive copies of the minutes. Truesdale offered to call them and work with both departments to bring them up to speed. Both departments indicated that were interested in verifying before the end of the year.
- b. Kathleen Nelson from Ohio EMA advised that Phil Johnson had taken a new position and was no longer responsible for training. She will let us know when the new training coordinator is in place.

6. Partner Agency Updates

1. FBI WMDC – Ken Werstak reported on the training conducted with the bomb techs in southern Ohio and that plans were underway for a BioSecurity Conference to be held at Wright State University. It would be open to first responders and hazmat teams.
2. Ohio EPA – Kevin Clouse reported that OEPA participated in “Vibrant Response” which was a multi-state nuclear exercise conducted in Indiana.
3. Ohio Fire Academy – Dale Dittrick reported that they were holding Hazmat/WMD Technician class on Sept 9-13 at the OFA. Although the attendance was originally low, the ONG HRF will fill in the balance of the class. This will be an IFSAC class.
4. 52nd Civil Support Team – Adam Long reported that the CST had recently participated in “Vibrant Response” as well as an exercise in Mahoning County.
5. Ohio Dept of Health – No additional report
6. Ohio Fire Chiefs Association – No additional report.
7. Ohio EMA – No Report
8. US-DHS – No representative present
9. Ohio DHS – No Report

7. **Additional Business:** No additional business.

8. **Action Items:**

9. **Next Meeting:** is scheduled for September 17, 2013. This will be a CONFERENCE CALL @ 10:00 AM. Call in info will be emailed.

Respectfully,
Mark Vedder, Chairman