

ORS TAC MINUTES

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

Date: November 19, 2013
TAC: HM TAC
From: Mark Vedder

File Number:
Approved:



1. **Attendees:** See attached attendance list.
2. The meeting was held at the Ohio EMA and was called to order at 1000 hrs. Co-Chairs Mark Vedder and Harry Burdick thanked everyone for attending.
3. Vedder stated that Rick Maier and Ken Werstak (FBI-WMDCs) had requested to attend the meeting by conference call. After discussion with the committee the request was denied, citing concerns that if committee members were permitted to attend the meetings by phone that it would negatively affect the in-person attendance at future meetings.
4. **Minutes:** Chief Truesdale moved to accept the minutes of the September 2013 meeting as sent out by email (there was no October 2013 meeting due to scheduling conflicts). Motion seconded by Brooke Matzen. Motion unanimously approved.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. Site Visits

Vedder stated that as approved at a previous TAC meeting, we will be moving forward with removing non-verified teams from the Ohio Fire Response Plan. Vedder recently discussed this with Russ Rife and discovered that the OFRP database does not indicate verified vs non-verified teams as we assumed. We will need to provide Russ with a list of verified teams and those we wish to remove. Russ felt that the OFRP regional coordinators should then contact those teams to make sure they are aware of the process before they are removed. Vedder emphasized that we are not trying to exclude any teams, and in fact would still welcome, encourage and support any future requests to verify. We knew it would be difficult to verify 77 teams and we have made a multi-year effort to do so (verifying over forty teams with volunteer site visit teams). It is now time to focus on verifying the balance of the Type 1 and Type 2 teams and get if finished.

Vedder stated that in recent discussions on grants with Andrew Elder, it is felt that we have developed enough Type 1 teams. Once Dayton and Toledo verify, there will be coverage in each of the major metropolitan areas with redundancy to maintain coverage during intra and interstate deployments. Moving forward the emphasis will be on sustainment, as well as information sharing, best practice sharing, exercises and training.

Region 1 - Toledo FD:

Vedder reported that the Toledo FD site visit was scheduled for Dec. 6, 2013. Toledo FD has applied to be verified as a Type 1. The site visit team will be Vedder, Burdick and Lauffer. Vedder will send out a request for an additional site visit team member.

Region 7 – Logan FD:

Chief Robertson submitted an application for verification of the Logan FD Hazmat Team as a Type 2. Chief Robertson requested the site visit be conducted on January 24, 2014. Vedder, Burdick and Doug Hobson volunteered to be on the site visit team along with the Ohio EMA Field Liaison.

Region 3 - Dayton FD:

Vedder reported that he received an email from Gary Rettig and that he plans to schedule a site visit for Dayton Hazmat and then spoke with Denny Bristow and that he stated that Dayton FD would be submitting an application in early 2014.

Region 1 - Bryan FD (Type 3) and Napoleon FD (Type 2):

After some discussion, Chief Siders and Chief Bennett requested that team typing documents be re-sent to them and that they would like to schedule to verify on Dec 6 as well. After additional discussion, it was agreed if the completed applications were received that Vedder, Burdick and Lauffer would continue on from Toledo to Napoleon and then Bryan on Dec 6th in order for them to verify before the end of the year.

Region 8 – Muskingum, Washington and Jefferson:

Doug Hobson requested to schedule Muskingum County Hazmat (Type 2), Washington County Hazmat (Type 2) and Jefferson County Hazmat (Type 2) for Dec. 20, 2013. Vedder thought they were too far apart for one day and agreed to schedule Muskingum and Washington for Dec 20 and to schedule Jefferson in January 2014. Bill Brobst and Chief Robertson volunteered to be on the site visit team along with Vedder and the Ohio EMA Field Liaison. Vedder indicated he would contact Steve Groves and Sil Caggiano to see if they could help with Jefferson County.

b. ODH Survey and Hazmat Team Database Update:

Eric St. Germain reported that he continues to work on the AHRF survey, but has recently been pulled to other projects. He will be reaching out to the remaining data gaps in the near future to finish the project. Vedder thanked him and ODH for their assistance with the project and that the Hazmat TAC will use the database to update their list of hazmat teams.

c. New OEMA Training and Exercise Supervisor

Vedder introduced and welcomed David Nunley as the new Training and Exercise Supervisor for OEMA. He had introduced himself on our September Conference call, but this was his first meeting with our TAC. David handed out a training schedule for available FY13 training.

d. Update on Hazmat Conferences

Brooke Matzen reported that the OKI Conference held Sept 21-22, 2013 in Sharonville, OH was well attended and considered a success.

Vedder reported that the Ohio Hazmat Teams Conference was held on Nov 1-2 in Solon, Ohio and that 260 Hazmat Techs attended nineteen different classes.

Vedder announced that the NW Ohio Hazmat Conference would be held on Dec 14 and was open to anyone interested.

Harry Burdick commended Bill Brobst's presentation at the Ohio LEPC Conference where Bill reviewed the Columbus Rail incident.

6. New Business

a. Mass Decon Resource List:

Vedder informed the TAC that he had received a list indicating who had purchased decon shelters. He felt the list could be used to identify some of the deployable mass decon assets in the state. He will send it out to the regional coordinators for vetting and to remove the hospital systems which are not deployable.

b. All TAC Leadership Meeting:

Vedder reported that he and Harry Burdick had attended the All TAC Leadership Meeting at OEMA the previous week. Although many topics were discussed, the main topics of interest were:

1. The increased charges for use of the MARCS radio system and how USAR feels this will be a huge impact on all the special ops teams
2. Discussion that all future grants will be for sustainment of existing capabilities and not new capabilities
3. Discussion that future grants will be competitive and typically will give priority to assets that are regional and deployable

Vedder further noted that many of the TAC's are no longer meeting on a regular basis and that he feels the reason the Hazmat TAC has been so successful is that we use the TAC meetings to network and share information in addition to the our roll in grant review and distribution. Vedder and Burdick both expressed their appreciation of the hard work of the members of the Hazmat TAC.

c. Reverification of Typed Hazmat Teams

Vedder discussed his recent review of the verification process of hazmat teams in Pennsylvania. They re-certify their teams on a regular basis and Vedder suggested we should start discussing how we might do this in the future. Consensus of the TAC was that it is needed. There was some very good discussion on possible formats. Annual, two, three and four year intervals were discussed, as well as self review versus peer review. Vedder asked to table the discussion so everyone would have a month to consider the options and discuss again on the December conference call.

d. Hazmat Team Medical Surveillance

Vedder stated that he is aware that one of the issues with teams seeking verification is the cost of physical exams. Vedder asked if anyone had any creative methods of working around this cost. A discussion followed on what exactly is required by the OSHA. Brobst suggested a much more limited program than what is commonly understood is acceptable. Vedder stated that he would re-send the Model Program guidance document from the ToxMedic Subcommittee by email. Nunley verified that there are currently no grants available for physical exams.

e. Hazmat Team Verification Map

Burdick passed out a revised Hazmat Team Map showing updates from the regional coordinators. Vedder explained that the map had been updated to reflect the current teams and verification status.

f. Hazmat TAC Meeting Schedule

Burdick prepared a proposed meeting schedule for 2014 which is shown on the back of the Hazmat Team Map. We will continue to alternate between meetings at the OEMA and Conference Calls. Vedder thanked Harry for preparing it and stated that it should allow committee members to plan to attend future meetings.

7. Training Opportunities

a. Haz Mat Officer / Haz Mat Safety Officer Course:

Vedder reported that OEMA contracts were in place with instructors to teach the HMO/HMSO courses for 2014. He suggested that anyone interested in hosting a class should contact David Nunley and he would contact an instructor. The cost of the course is covered by HMEP and the suggested course size is 16-20 students. Vedder announced that Cuyahoga County would be hosting a course in February 2014, Butler County requested to host another course and that Summit County was interested in hosting a course.

Brobst suggested that since this was identified as a training gap by the TAC, and that since we used OEMA funds to develop the course, that he proposed we should require the course for leadership of typed hazmat teams. Discussion followed on how that might be implemented, whether it would be grandfathered, what the implementation timeframe might be, etc. It was suggested that it be required of all Type 1 and 2 teams and that it be required within one year for Type 1 teams and within two years for Type 2 teams. The topic was tabled to allow a month of discussion and will be discussed again on the December conference call.

b. Hazmat IQ and ToxMedic

Vedder reminded the TAC that HMEP funds are also available for these classes at the Operations Level, Technician Level and for the ToxMedics. Contact David Nunley if interested in hosting a course.

8. Partner Agency Updates

- a. FBI WMDC – unable to attend.

- b. Ohio EPA – unable to attend.
- c. Ohio Fire Academy – no report.
- d. 52nd Civil Support Team – Adam Long reported that they were gearing up for their eighteen month evaluation. They participated in an exercise in Lima two weeks earlier and have an exercise scheduled for Athens in December.
- e. Ohio Dept of Health – No additional report
- f. Ohio Fire Chiefs Association – No additional report.
- g. Ohio EMA – No additional report
- h. US-DHS – No representative present
- i. Ohio DHS – No Report

9. **Next Meeting:** December 17, 2013 @ 1000 hours – **CONFERENCE CALL**

Respectfully,



Mark Vedder, Co-Chairman

19 Nov 2013 - SIGN-IN -

H. Bendick	- MANAHO Co.
Brian Robertson	Lagun Fire
Clarence Tucker	- Summit County / Akron FD
Bill Brass	- Columbus Fire
Jon Kochis	Fairfield Co EMA
Brooke Matzen	ECHEMU
MARK VEDDER	CHAGREN/SE HAZMAT
Roger D Hobson	Muskingum County Hazmat
Bob Bennett	NAPOLKIN F.D.
Adam Long	CST
Bruce Siders	Bryan Fire
ERIC STEINMANN	ODH LAB
Bruce Black	Lima Fire
Jim Painter	Shawnee FD
Todd Truesdale	Shawnee F.D.
David Nunley	Ohio EMA
JOSH SIGMON	OHIO EMA
Dave Gross	Seneca Co EPC