

Ohio Rescue Technical Advisory Committee
Summary of Activities for 2016 and 2017

From: Brian Harting, TAC Chair
Date: July 12, 2017
Re: 2017 Status Report



The Ohio Rescue Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) represents the Search and Rescue function for the State of Ohio. The committee works to inform and recommend best practices to the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association and Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

Meetings are held throughout the year to discuss and coordinate training, state resources and response plans. A bulk of the discussions focus around sustainment of the existing resources and significant issues the teams face as we move in to the future.

Since its inception the Rescue TAC has coordinated the development of Type II and Type III Collapse Search and Rescue Teams within the eight planning regions of the state. Currently there are 4 teams that have been verified as deployable to respond to emergencies within the State as well as neighboring states. Strike Teams are able to deploy 30 personnel within 30 minutes, arrive on scene within one hour, and be operational within two hours in any part of their Regions. The TAC also coordinates operations with Ohio Task Force 1 (OHTF 1), the states Type I Urban Search and Rescue Team. OHTF 1 is also an asset within the FEMA Response System, one of 28 teams in the United States. Many members of the regional teams also participate as members of OHTF 1.

The primary mission of the Regional Search and Rescue Strike Teams are to search, locate, medically stabilize, and extricate heavily entrapped victims of structural collapse due to natural and manmade disasters. The skills required of participating members include a basic understanding of Structural Collapse Rescue, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Vehicle/Machinery Extrication, and Swiftwater Rescue. These courses are pre-requisites to become a full functioning member of each team. In addition to basic knowledge in these disciplines, members often obtain Advanced Training in Structural Collapse, Technical Search Operations, Heavy Equipment Rigging, Search Planning and Management, NIMS/ICS, Planning, Logistics, Operations, and Safety functions. Structural Collapse is a low frequency/high hazard discipline that requires frequent and ongoing training for members to maintain their skills in the core competencies.

Currently the deployable Collapse Search and Rescue Teams are providing the following services to their regions within the state:

- 1) Collapse Search and Rescue
- 2) Building Stabilization
- 3) Structural Engineers/Building Hazard Analysis
- 4) Wide Area Search
- 5) Technical Rescue Support (Rope, Trench, Confined Space, Auto Extrication, Swiftwater, Haz Mat)
- 6) Missing Person Searches

These teams have been built out with the support of Federal Homeland Security Grants (SHSGP), Urban Area Security Initiative Grants (UASI), state, and local funding.

Moving forward, the teams have established the following priorities:

- 1) Re-Establish a working relationship with Ohio EMA
- 2) The main priority of the teams are to sustain and maintain the current typed and verified teams. This includes sustaining equipment that has been purchased over the last 10-15 years, administrative expenses, and expenses related to training. Securing additional sustainment funding outside of the Federal Grant Programs is imperative for the longevity of the teams as there are many expenses that are not eligible for federal funding. Additionally the regular administrative duties to run and maintain the teams are often conducted on voluntary, unpaid status. The team administration often perform 20-40 hours of weekly duties and meetings. It is not realistic for these teams to remain functional for a foreseeable future without additional assistance to keep up with regular administrative functions. A large amount of time is required for maintaining grant compliance. Responsibilities include writing applications, submitting specifications and RFP's, procurement, inventory, training, and reimbursement documentation.
- 3) Update the current equipment cache list
- 4) Research the most current NIMS Resource Typing that is most applicable to the Ohio Response Plan and Requirements of future grant funding
- 5) Update the Structural Collapse Operations (SCO) training curriculum
- 6) Plan future exercises to test capabilities while exercising a multi team operation

Ohio Region 2- Cleveland/Northeast Ohio Area

Team Leader- Brian Harting
Deputy Team Leader- Ron Zak
Deputy Team Leader- Chris Caimi

Number of deployable members- 90
Number of Participating Agencies- 34

Significant Events for 2016: Participation in the Republican National Convention planning process. Stand-by Rescue Teams during the RNC. Five Structural Shoring Operations and two Missing Person Searches. Conducted 4,896 contact hours of training.

Ohio Region 4- Columbus/Central Ohio Area

Team Leader- Gary Hamilton
Secondary Contact- AC Jack Rupp

Number of deployable members- 210
Number of Participating Agencies-10

Significant Events for 2016: Participation in two Missing Person Searches. Conducted 1,756 contact hours of training.

Ohio Region 5- Akron/Canton Area

Team Leader- Chief Paul Moledor
Secondary Contact- Chief Tim Morgan

Number of deployable members- 101
Number of Participating Agencies- 26

Significant Events for 2016: Participation in one Missing Person Search. Conducted 1,982 contact hours of training.

Ohio Region 6- Cincinnati Area

Commissioner- Tom Lakamp
Deputy Commissioners- Grants Light, Jim Murphy, Tom Grau, Ed Thomas

Number of deployable members- 105
Number of Participating Agencies- 25

Significant Events for 2016: Participation in one Missing Person Search. Conducted 2,608 contact hours of training.

Ohio Task Force 1- State of Ohio (Based in Dayton)

Program Manager- Evan Schumann

Number of deployable members- 221

Number of Participating Agencies- 71

Significant Events for 2016: OHTF 1 completed an Administrative Readiness Evaluation by the FEMA system, and passed with flying colors. Members participated in planning teams for events leading up to and during the Republican National Convention (RNC). OHTF 1 deployed a Type I Task Force (80 personnel) to Hurricane Matthew, which was the first deployment that the Task Force engaged in Rescue of citizens in imminent danger. Conducted 11,812 contact hours of training. OHTF 1 was host to 10 East Coast FEMA USAR teams for an annual meeting in Columbus, OH. A record number of OHTF 1 members are representatives on the FEMA USAR Working Groups in a number of capacities and committees.

Sincerely,

Brian Harting, OFE
Lieutenant, Bedford Division of Fire
Chairman, Rescue Technical Advisory Committee
440-552-1134
bharting.ohr2@gmail.com