

## Upcoming Training:

- **February 26, 2005**  
Cold Weather Exercise
- **March 16, 2005**  
Skill Sets Training
- **March 19, 2005**  
Skill Sets (Alternate Date)  
TOPOFF Prep
- **April 4-6, 2005**  
MOBEX 2005
- **May 18, 2005**  
Trench Rescue—Day 1  
Awareness and Technician
- **May 21, 2005**  
Skills Set Training
- **June 8, 2005**  
Trench Rescue—Day 2  
Awareness and Technician
- **June 18, 2005**  
Skill Set Training
- **July 16, 2004**  
Team Exercise
- **August 15, 2005**  
DECON Team Drill
- **September 16-17, 2005**  
Rope Rescue  
Awareness/Ops and Tech.
- **October (TBD), 2005**  
Air Mobility Team Exercise
- **November 10, 2005**  
Machine Extrication
- **December 17, 2005**  
Annual Holiday Meeting

## Features:

Supporting Agencies	2-3
Member News	3
Contact TEAM MATTERS	4



FEMA

# Team Matters

Massachusetts Urban Search and Rescue Task Force One

Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency

Volume V, Issue I

February 2005

## FORE RIVER SHIPYARD COLLAPSE RESPONSE

### First Report

On January 26 and 27, 2005, members of the Mass Task Force 1 responded to the former Fore River Shipyard in Braintree to assist the Braintree, MA Fire Department in the recovery of the bodies of two workers killed in a gantry crane collapse. The Task Force responded January 26th with a modified Technical Team to provide technical assistance to Braintree Fire. The response was augmented on January 27th to include two rescue squads (A & C) to assist with the recovery efforts.

This mobilization was done at the request of the Braintree Fire Department. It was not a FEMA or State resource activation.

An Executive Summary is provided on page 3. A complete After-Action Report will be provided to all Task Force members when it is completed.

See Special Report on Page 3



MA-TF1 Photo



## In This Issue:

Canine  
DECON

Fore River  
Collapse  
Overview  
Special Report

Downey  
Memorial Fund  
Raiser

Training  
Committee  
Established

Page 2

Page 3

Page 3

Page 4

**New Hampshire**

Bedford Fire Department  
 Concord Fire Department  
 Dover Fire Department  
 Hampton Fire Department  
 Hanover Fire Department  
 Laconia Fire Department  
 Londonderry Fire Department  
 Nashua Fire Department  
 Pine Hill Waldorf School  
 Rochester Fire Department  
 Wilton Animal Hospital

**Rhode Island**

Cranston Fire Department  
 Johnston Fire Department  
 Newport Fire Department  
 North Providence Fire Department  
 Providence Fire Department  
 Rhode Island State Fire Marshal  
 Warwick Fire Department

**Connecticut**

Best Friends, Inc.  
 Greenwich Fire Department  
 Naugatuck Fire Department  
 Waterbury Fire Department  
 West Hartford Fire Department

**Vermont**

Northwestern Medical Center  
 Stowe Police Department  
 Vermont Dept. of Transportation

**Maine**

Bath Fire Department  
 Cianbro Corporation  
 Eastern Maine Medical Center  
 Town of Kennebunk  
 Lakes Region Primary Care  
 Maine Medical Center  
 Portland Fire Department  
 York Hospital

## CANINE DECONTAMINATION

On October 16, 2004 an all discipline mock disaster was created in an effort to involve as many aspects of a real deployment as could be contrived. One aspect of this search and rescue exercise was to use a contaminant to mimic a hazmat situation, possibly WMD related, as both an air born and surface laden situation in the room where the 'victims' were located.

Due to time constraints, a scaled down version of decontamination was set up. Hazmat-suited humans, unsuited handlers, and their canines were sent through the system, which involved a water bath, soaping, and rinse for all. As with the human counterpart, vigorous scrubbing is discouraged when decontaminating dogs so as not to abrade their skin and drive a toxin deeper into the tissues.

The test contaminant was a product called Glo Germ<sup>®</sup>, one in powder form and another in a mineral oil based liquid form. These substances, once spread, are barely detectable with the naked eye, but show up brightly under ultra-violet light source.

Contamination of the canines was confirmed prior to decontamination. All had various amounts of mostly the liquid form on the pads, and two dogs had powder residue over their nose and face. Then they were sent through the washing stations and rechecked for contamination. All faces were clean based on the ultraviolet light exam, but all had various amounts of contamination on at least three, some on all four, footpads. The dogs were sent through again, but remained contaminated on 2-3 of their

pads. One canine went through a third time, but still had residual Glo Germ<sup>®</sup> on 2 pads.

In considering why decontamination was so difficult, I reviewed the properties of this particular test material. The Glo Germ<sup>®</sup> particles are 5 microns or smaller. To give a perspective, red blood cells are 4-7 microns. They are a plastic, with tiny barbs that catch and stick to surfaces. In hot water these barbs will begin to melt and adhere to a clothing surface, to eventually set in as a stain. The liquid form is made of these particles suspended in mineral oil. Dishwashing liquid (we used Dawn<sup>®</sup>) is the most common decontamination substance for animals used in many toxic situations, and was appropriate here as well.

After observing the pattern of continued contamination on the pads, a theory regarding the tenacious Glo Germ<sup>®</sup> material came to mind based on this particular pattern of contamination and the anatomical differences in the footpad. Before DECON, the material lit up all over the pads. After the first washing, the bottom aspect of the pads was clean. This is where the pad comes in the most contact with the floor, ground, road, etc, which is why this area is worn down. But the Glo Germ<sup>®</sup> material remained at the edges, at the pad-skin/fur interface. If you look closely, this portion of the pad is deep-crevassed. Without being worn down, these crevasses are a great place for the Glo Germ<sup>®</sup> particles, and potentially other substances, to gain a strong hold.

For the canines, protection

Have the benefit of suits, pad protection (which cannot be used because it may impede their ability to work on uneven surfaces), or masks which would negate their usefulness as a searcher altogether. Of all of these protective measures, only a custom-made body suit has any potential of offering partial protection and at the same time not interfering with their value as a searcher. Knowledge of search area hazards is vital in protecting their eyes, nose and airway all the way down to the alveoli of their lungs.

Their footpads are also at risk, but actually may present more of a risk to others than themselves. Their tough pads can withstand an incredible variation of conditions. The heavily keratinized conical papillae are what you see that gives these pads the thickness and toughness that allows dogs to withstand a wide range of temperatures and surfaces.

These properties are what make their feet relatively impervious to substances that would easily damage their other skin surfaces. If there are difficulties fully decontaminating the pads, this may not hurt the dog at all! However, their pads may be a source of contamination spread over the clean areas and render them contaminated as well.

Thanks to all who participated in the October drill. Canine decontamination is an aspect of a deployment with which we have little experience. Every time we involve the canines, we learn more to help them in the future, which helps us all!

Lori E. Gordon, DVM

## FORE RIVER SHIPYARD COLLAPSE RESPONSE (cont.)

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MATF-1 responded to the Fore River Shipyard Collapse where a large shipbuilding gantry crane structure collapsed without warning and crushed an adjacent shipyard building where twelve people were working. Braintree Fire Department responded and requested support from MATF-1. When MATF-1 began operations, eleven workers had been accounted for. MATF-1 canine search specialists identified a probable location and technical search specialists operating with them found the twelfth worker's remains. Operations were terminated for the day and recovery operations began the next day. The remains of the two deceased victims were recovered by a joint effort of MATF-1 rescue specialists and rescue personnel from the Braintree Fire Department.

### EVENT DESCRIPTION

The Fore River Shipyard was at one time a major builder of steel ships. In this area of the shipyard there are four dry-docks where ships were assembled and a 180 foot tall structure provided crane access over all of them. Directly adjacent to the dry-docks and crane structure is a large steel mill building where portions of the ships were pre-assembled prior to moving to the dry-dock area for assembly onto the ships. The crane structure over three of the dry-docks was imploded several weeks prior to the collapse. The fourth crane structure was being readied for mechanical demolition. The steel mill building structure was also scheduled for imminent demolition. At the time of the collapse, asbestos abatement operations were ongoing inside the building. Twelve workers were inside at the time of the collapse. The weather was snowing and windy. At 1030 on Wednesday January 26, 2005 a portion of the crane structure collapsed onto the mill building resulting in the deaths of two workers and injuring six others, two seriously.

TFL Mark Foster



MA-TF1 Photo

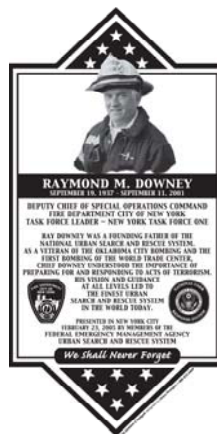


MA-TF1 Photo

## Member News

### FEMA Training Completed:

Jim Okiliwicz-Logistics Specialist Course  
 John C. McClellan-Logistics Specialist Course  
 Normen Charbonneau-Canine Specialist Course  
 Konnie Hein-Canine Specialist Course



### Tribute to Ray Downey

MA-TF1 has offered to design and fund this plaque as a tribute to Chief Ray Downey who was killed at the WTC on 9/11. The plaque is 3 feet tall and will be permanently displayed at the FDNY SOC Command Center in NYC.

The cost of the plaque is \$4500 and donations of any size are appreciated and can be sent to:

New England Association for Search and Rescue  
 Attn: Ray Downey Memorial  
 43 Airport Road  
 Beverly, MA 01915

### Massachusetts

- Aberjonaei Engineering, Inc.
- Acton Fire Department
- American Medical Response
- Amherst Fire Department
- Andover Fire Department
- Ascent Technologies, Inc.
- Beverly Fire Department
- Beverly Emergency Management
- Beverly Hospital
- BHS Ambulance
- Boston Health and Hospitals EMS
- Boston Fire Department
- Bourne Fire Department
- Braintree Fire Department
- Building Center
- Caruso Construction and Equipment
- Cast, Inc.
- Chelsea Fire Department
- Concord Fire Department
- Corn Bay Associates
- Danvers Fire Department
- Devens RFTA
- Ditirad
- Foxboro Fire Department
- Framingham Fire Department
- The Gillette Company
- Gloucester Fire Department
- Haverhill Fire Department
- Heavy Rescue, Inc.
- Hyannis Fire Department
- Ipswich Fire Department
- Ironworkers, Local #7
- JSL Engineering, Inc.
- Lawrence Fire Department
- Linskey Construction, Inc.
- Lynn Fire Department
- McNamara/Salvia, Inc.
- Malden Fire Department
- Mansfield Fire Department
- Marblehead Fire Department
- Mercer Management Consultants
- New Bedford Fire Department
- Newport Fire Department
- Newton Fire Department
- Northampton Fire Department
- North Shore Two-Way
- Norton Fire Department
- P.A. Landers, Inc.
- Pittsfield Fire Department
- Plymouth County Sheriff's Office
- Revere Fire Department
- Rockland Fire Department
- Salem Fire Department
- Sandwich Fire Department
- Saugus Fire Department
- Sharon Fire Department
- Smartlink Radio News Networks
- Sodexo Marriott
- Springfield Fire Department
- Steele M. Lightbody Electric
- Stone and Webster Engineering
- Sturbridge Fire Department
- Sun Microsystems
- Swampscott Fire Department
- Textron Systems Corporation
- Thomson Financial
- URS Corporation
- U.S. Postal Inspectors Service
- Walpole Fire Department
- West Barnstable Fire Department
- Weymouth Fire Department
- Winthrop Fire Department
- Worcester Fire Department
- Yarmouth Fire Department

The information displayed here is the most current on file with the task force. Any discrepancies, additions or deletions should be addressed to the task force office staff.

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[www.matf.org](http://www.matf.org)

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## TRAINING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

The Task Force has established a Training Committee to review training needs, hire instructional staff and oversee implementation of training programs for the Task Force.

The Training Committee is headed by Chairman Michael Gomes, RTM and consists of a manager and alternate from each sub-division of the Task Force. The committee will be reviewing the newly prescribed TASK BOOKS for each discipline and how best to implement them. A schedule has been posted by email and in this newsletter for upcoming training programs and events. This listing will be updated as necessary.

Anyone interested in the committee or requesting training programs, please contact your Manager.

### TEAM MATTERS

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