



# Team Matters

## Massachusetts Urban Search and Rescue Task Force One



FEMA

Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency

Volume V, Issue III

March 2005

### Upcoming Training:

- **May 5, 2005**  
Water Rescue Awareness  
0830-1230  
1300-1700
- **May 7, 2005**  
Water Rescue Awareness  
0830-1230
- **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 Training
- **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**  
Vehicle Extrication
- **November 4-6, 2005**  
Canine Testing
- **December 17, 2005**  
Annual Holiday Meeting

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Over 100 members of MA-TFI participated in TOPOFF 3, the largest terrorism response exercise held in the U.S. MA-TFI members, along with Connecticut (CT-TFI) and New Jersey (NJ-TFI), responded to a simulated explosion and WMD incident which leveled a five-story parking structure, trapping over 50 victims in the debris.

The three task forces initiated an Incident Management Team (IMT) to coordinate the response of all three teams.

This was the first, full-scale response for the CT-TFI and the members of the Mass. Task Force welcome them to the US&R family.

## TOPOFF 3

The exercise was the third in a series of Congressionally mandated tests of the nations' capabilities and the ability of the federal government to effectively manage and integrate the national response.

The exercise was conducted at Fort Trumbell in New London, CT and was held over an eight day period. The exercise involved TOP Officials of all Federal anti-terrorism agencies and agencies from Canada and Great Britain.



CT-TF1 Photo

### In This Issue:

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Lori E. Gordon, DVM

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Contact Us

**New Hampshire**

Bedford Fire Department  
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 Conway 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  
 Scott Lawson Group, LTD  
 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

*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.*

**Corporate Sponsors**

Brox Industries (MA)  
 Highland Animal Hospital (MA)  
 Miles River Sand and Gravel (MA)  
 Town of Needham (MA)

*The above listed organizations and agencies have provided technical, in-kind or facility support in progressing the objectives of MA-TFI.*

**FOOD for THOUGHT**

*Holidays can be a wonderful time of celebration, a break from the normal routine, and an opportunity to rejuvenate the soul. One of the most common features at these times is food, especially chocolate. Mmmmm. But for dogs, foods like chocolate can be a life-threatening experience. Many factors are involved in the manifestation of food toxicity in any animal, including the type of food, what is the toxic substance, how much was ingested, the size of the animal, and how long before treatment is given.*

Potential dangers include the following foods and their toxins:

Chocolate – Theobromine and Caffeine  
 Raisins and grapes – unknown  
 Onions and garlic – n-Methyl sulfide  
 Sugarless Candies - Xylitol  
 Coffee grounds – Caffeine  
 Macadamia nuts – unknown  
 Walnuts & others – Phosphorus  
 Bread dough – Alcohol, expansion  
 Potato peelings – Solanum alkaloid  
 Broccoli – Isothiocyanate  
 Kernels of plums, peaches, apricots; pips of pear, apple – Cyanogenic glycosides.

Chocolate contains a compound called theobromine. Theobromine can affect the intestinal tract, the heart, the central nervous system, and the kidneys. Dogs may not show signs for several hours or days, depending on how big (or small) they are, how much they ate, and what type of chocolate.

Signs of an overdose include restlessness, excitability, and hyperactivity. The central nervous system effects include seizures, which can be triggered in dogs prone to or at risk for epilepsy, and ultimately coma. The diuretic effects will increase urination (polyuria) and subsequently the dog will be very thirsty (polydipsia). The irritation to the intestinal tract causes diarrhea, but in the worst cases may lead to internal bleeding, possibly severe. The effects on the heart range from increasing the heart rate (tachycardia), cardiac arrhythmias (especially if excited). Acute exposure may cause death in 6-24 hours, chronic ingestion may result in death from cardiac failure.

And if that isn't enough, chocolate also contains caffeine, which exacerbates many of these signs and symptoms. Once absorbed, theobromine remains in the bloodstream for 14-20 hours. It takes the liver a while to filter it out.

Milk chocolate has 44-66 mg/ounce, semi-sweet 130-185 mg/ounce, dark chocolate 450 mg/ounce, baking chocolate varies from 150-600 mg/ounce. No deaths have been observed with less than 200 mg theobromine ingested per kilogram (2.2 pounds) of body weight.

There is no antidote. Treatment is supportive. You can induce vomiting which may be effective even 4-6 hours after ingestion. But make sure it is appropriate to do so. Do not do so if your dog is very depressed, cannot stand, or comatose as this may cause aspiration into the lungs of vomited material. To induce vomiting, give 1 teaspoon hydrogen peroxide per 30 pounds body weight. Repeat after 10 minutes, but not more than 3 times total. Most dogs will drool and look quite miserable before they vomit. Alternatively, give ½ to 1 teaspoon syrup of Ipecac per 10 pounds body weight, (not to exceed 15 ml per dog in one report). Repeat only once. If no vomiting, the Ipecac must be recovered by stomach tube. Seek medical attention or at least call for advice. Poison control numbers as well as on-line information is available (see below). The veterinarian can provide supportive care, including fluids, gastric lavage, activated charcoal, catheterize the bladder to decrease absorption there, ECG to monitor the heart, seizure control, and cardiac drugs.

Please, take a little time to insure a safe, healthy and happy Easter and Passover holiday.

Lori E. Gordon, DVM

*Continued on page 4*

## Boston Fire on the Discovery Channel

Paul Carey has provided the following information on a new *Discovery Channel and Pilgrim Film Productions* program designed to follow firefighters in their daily lives, in and out of the firehouse. The camera crews have acquired extensive video on the life of firefighters covering 26 weeks— 24/7 with Engine 37 and Ladder 26 on Huntington Avenue. The program will debut on Tuesday, June 7, 2005 on the *Discovery Channel* at 10:00 PM. Check your local listings and cable channels for times in your area.

### **Firehouse USA Meet Boston's Bravest —**

#### **The men of Engine 37, Ladder 26.**

Viewers go behind the firefighters' gear and under their helmets in *Firehouse USA*, the new unscripted series from the producers of *American Chopper*. By fitting the firehouse with lenses and installing micro cameras into fire helmets, we are bringing our audience to the heart of the house.

They will experience all of the drama and real life perils through the eyes of these heroes. Led by Captain Paul Carey (MA-TFI Haz-Mat Manager) and Captain Stephen Paschal, the men prepare to battle raging infernos and save lives. Grizzled veterans and fresh rookies open up to share the danger, pain and joy of belonging to this elite unit. Forged in fire, the relationships that develop create a band of brothers. They'd die for one another, but can they live with each other in *Firehouse USA*?

## Member Transfers/Promotions

John Cosmo	Logistics to Rescue
Michael Clarke	Rescue to Planning Team Manager
James W. Okolowitz	Logistics to Rescue
Robert Alcock Jr.	Rescue to Haz-Mat
Thomas R. Groff	Rescue to Technical Search
David McCombe	Logistics to Technical Search
Marc Omerzu	Logistics to Rescue

Some internal transfers are still pending authorization of the managers.

Congratulations to those on their transfers and new opportunities

## Tribute to Ray Downey

MA-TFI has designed and presented 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 to date over \$3000 has been raised with an additional \$1500 still needed. 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
- Dept. of Environmental Protection
- 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

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

## Submit your articles to **TEAM MATTERS**:

### *FOOD for THOUGHT* (continued from Page 2)

ASPCA American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

<http://www.apcc.asPCA..org>

\$50 consult fee

NAPCC National Animal Poison Control Center

<http://napcc.asPCA.org>

\$30 consult fee

900-680-0000 \$2.95/minute, max \$30

#### References:

Handbook of Small Animal Toxicology & Poisonings, Gfeller and Messonnier,  
Mosby, Inc., 1998

Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Ettinger & Feldman, WB  
Saunders Co., 1995

<http://www.envtox.ucdavis.edu>

<http://www.adoptagolden.com>

<http://www.apcc.asPCA..org>

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