



Team Matters

Massachusetts Urban Search and Rescue Task Force One



FEMA

Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency

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Upcoming Training:

- **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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Maine MATF-1 Members Meet with State & Local Responders

Augusta, ME –June 28, 2005. Three members of MATF-1 met with state and local first responders and emergency management officials to discuss statewide capabilities for building collapses. This meeting was a follow up from MATF-1 participation as observers during recent emergency exercises held in Southern Maine.

The meeting was hosted by Maine Emergency Management Agency and the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) at the request of concerned fire chiefs and county officials about capabilities and resources available in case of a building collapse in Maine.

Alan Fisher and Bob Burdick explained the National Urban Search and Rescue system, a brief history of MATF-1 and some of the deployments for both state and federal missions, the capabilities and resources available from the Team and also the various levels of response that MATF-1 might provide. Alan and Bob also pointed out the members of MATF-1 from Maine, the range of expertise in medicine, rescue, safety, structural, planning and WMD/hazardous materials and their willingness to provide insight and assistance to improve the collapse rescue response capability in Maine.

John Cannon, who serves as the Vice-Chair of the SERC, cautioned the attendees about efforts to duplicate the services of MATF-1 especially in view of declining financial resources for all areas of homeland security missions. He explained the greater good coming from efforts to work in conjunction with MATF-1 instead of competition or duplication. Several attendees expressed similar concerns about budget cuts interfering with present missions for homeland security, maintaining currency and competency for members and keeping equipment up to date and operable. The SERC will oversee future efforts and activities in this arena.

Consensus from the group was to improve communication between the various search and rescue disciplines such as urban, wilderness, canine and first responders, formalize agreements for mutual aid through the State, compile and improve resource listings for potentially needed equipment for a collapse and develop action guidelines and awareness programs for the initial first responders.

Many attendees agreed that the first and most important step was taken at this meeting which was to already have met the person you may deal with at an emergency incident. The group is scheduled to reconvene at the end of August.

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Supporting Agencies

New Hampshire

Bedford Fire Department
 Concord Fire Department
 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

Lori E. Gordon, DVM

Grape and Raisin Toxicity in Dogs

Grapes and raisins have in some places been recommended as treats and training aids because fruit is tasty and relatively low in calories. Other dogs may eat the fruit right off the vine, steal from the counter, table, plate, or low-level kids, they even eat wine pressings. Unfortunately, dogs can have dangerous and potentially fatal reactions to these small little 'treats'. Over 200 calls were made to the ASPCA between 2001 and 2004 involving potential exposure to toxic levels of grapes and raisins.

How does toxicity occur?

Currently, the exact mechanism of how these foods cause the gastrointestinal and renal (kidney) toxicity is unknown. Ingestions studied included grapes from grocery stores and those found in the backyard, grape pressings from wineries, seedless and seeded varieties. Grapes tested for pesticides, heavy metals, and mycotoxins (fungal) were negative. It is not known if the skin must be ingested for the effects to occur, and so far grape-seed extract is not considered a threat, just the fruit itself. No other species are known to be adversely affected at this time.

What are the signs?

Dogs show signs related to the gastrointestinal tract and the kidneys. Vomiting is one of the initial signs of poisoning, usually within the first 2 hours of ingestion. Within the first 5-6 hours of exposure you may see diarrhea, lethargy, and polydipsia (increased urination). Acute renal failure signs may manifest within 24 hours or several days, depending on the dose related to the size of the dog. These include anorexia, lethargy, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, tremors, and hypovolemia (not enough fluid volume in the vessels seen as poor capillary refill, dry pale mucous membranes).

What will blood tests reveal?

Most changes in blood tests reflect the effects of renal failure and intestinal fluid losses. These include elevations in calcium, blood urea nitrogen, creatinine, and phosphate. Blood elevations of these parameters indicate that the kidney is not doing its job in regulating the elimination of these potentially fatal products. Tissue studies on the kidneys reveal necrosis (cell death) and mineralization of the renal tissues.

How many grapes and raisins will make a dog sick?

The lowest documented amount of toxic grape or raisin is 0.32 to 0.65 ounces per kilogram (1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds). A rough quick estimate of this would be a 50-pound dog eating from 8-16 ounces, or 1/2 to 1 pound, of the grapes or raisins. But any ingestion should be considered potentially harmful, especially since without knowing the exact mechanism, there may be factors that are unaccounted for, like individual sensitivity, or breed-related sensitivity. Also, since signs may not show for one to several days, by the time they do show it may be too late.

Diagnosis

There are no specific grape/raisin poisoning tests, and the signs and symptoms listed above may have other causes, like ethylene glycol ingestion (anti-freeze), trauma, other toxins, etc. Diagnosis of grape or raisin toxicity is based on history of exposure.

Treatment

Veterinary management depends on the initial presentation of the animal, both time-wise, their clinical signs, physical examination, and blood tests. If within 2 hours of ingestion, emesis (vomiting) can be induced (see notes below on inducing vomiting). After 2 hours, the effectiveness decreases with time. This is followed by activated charcoal administration, which will absorb some of the toxin and coat the intestinal tract to reduce further absorption of toxin. Fluid administration intravenously for the first 48 hours may help prevent renal failure. Blood chemistries, urine output, blood pressure, and urinalysis should be monitored and treated accordingly. Veterinarians may use furosemide, dopamine, or mannitol in an effort to make the kidneys function. With extreme renal damage, dialysis may be beneficial.

Prognosis

The outcome depends on several factors: how much ingestion with respect to the size of the dog, time passed from ingestion to initial treatment, proper treatment (decontamination) and monitoring, as well as progression of signs (fast, slow). Dogs that respond favorably to the treatments have a good prognosis for recovery. Complete loss of urine production is a poor indicator for survival.

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DHS/FEMA Funding Update

The Senate DHS Appropriations Subcommittee has completed the mark-up of the DHS EP&R Directorate budget. Included in the budget amount is a set-aside of \$30 million for the US&R Program. My understanding is that there is also some specific language in the bill that requires DHS/FEMA to look at actual participating agency costs in relation to DHS/FEMA costs (with a specific reference to cost-sharing analysis). If I understand the process correctly, the bill now goes to the full Senate Appropriations Committee. From there, it goes to the Senate floor for passage. After passage by the full Senate, it goes to a House/Senate Conference Committee to determine the final recommended amount.

As you are well aware, this is the same process that we have endured during recent budget cycles. This is a significant positive step. While the \$30 million amount is not guaranteed at this early stage of the process, we have cleared an important hurdle. (and if all things go well, it is certainly better than looking at a \$7 million amount to fund the entire US&R Program). Our most critical current concern for the US&R Program was the funding for FY2006- it appears that we are on our way towards a favorable resolution.

As we continue to work our way through this process, we must also continue our work on the proposed (permanent) legislative bill and sustained line-item funding. I hope to update you on the status of that project in the near future. I want to thank all of you who communicated with me and worked so hard with your Senate staffers on this. These coordinated efforts have made a difference. Special thanks are due to Dewey Perks and VA-TFI for hosting a Senate DHS Appropriations staffers visit in Fairfax, Virginia (similar thanks are also due to MD-TF I); I believe that their knowledge, professionalism, and hospitality were very significant at a critical time in this phase of the budget decision process.

Thanks are also due to the Sponsoring Agency Chiefs for their help, their guidance, and their "horsepower". Finally, there is no way we could adequately express our gratitude to Chief Steve Paulsell for his tireless, unselfish efforts on behalf of our program.

Member Transfers/Promotions

Gerald McNamara Sr.	Foxboro (MA) Fire	To: Chief of Department
Miles Schlichte	Gloucester (MA) Fire	To: Deputy Chief
Charles Roffo	Laconia (NH) Fire	To: Deputy Chief
Robert Zalewski	Chelsea (MA) Fire	To: Deputy Chief
Jess Wyman		To: Rescue (Squad A)

Congratulations to those on their promotions and new opportunities

Members Attend Medical Training in California by Karen Fluery

“Doc” Stone, Charlie Williams and Karen Fluery flew out to Orange County for the Medical Specialist training program this spring. Our training began on Sunday evening and ended the following Friday evening. The first two days of training consisted of classroom covering structural collapse, terrorists activities, PPE, very in-depth medical issues and injuries. The second portion of the program was scenario based skill stations with Anita Arnum participating as an Instructor. The scenarios were enhanced by the construction of some very tough rubble piles for us to extricate patients! Students were required to provide treatment that included monitors, I.V.s and a host of other equipment on to the live patient and pull them through very rough terrain and under ground tunnels at the new training grounds and training buildings. The tunnels went for what seemed for miles and had hills and turns in them. Very real when in one of these tunnels and you realize the earth could quake at anytime!! We worked very hard during the days and on Thursday night we were shuttled over to the old training grounds for night operations. Setup just like we do for training. Real patients and press everywhere. The only difference was that we acted like our own rescue squads and medical teams. We all had been assigned to team leader through out the week and were put in charge of our groups. Every group had 12 people from all the other teams here in the U.S.. The week was a complete success and was very challenging. Charlie Williams and I found that we left with some very valuable tools to help us and our team mates on our team. We also met some cool people from the other teams and made a few friends!

Massachusetts

Aberjona Engineering, Inc.
 Acton Fire Department
 American Medical Response
 Amherst Fire Department
 Andover Fire Department
 Ascent Technology, Incorporated
 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
 Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure
 Smartlink Radio News Networks
 Sodexo Marriott
 Springfield Fire Department
 Steele M. Lightbody Electric
 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

Logistics Log

Drivers Still Wanted!

Logistics is looking for additional CDL-A drivers for deployment and non-deployment activities. Before any CDL-A driver is accepted to the team, they must show proficiency on our vehicles and meet other requirements .

Personal Gear:

During Top Off 3, we were able to issue additional personal gear to all qualified members who were able to come at the schedule times. Any shortages have been addressed and we are awaiting delivery. Additionally, we issued a new work glove for field testing, with very favorable results. We are still trying to secure proper rain gear that meets our needs as well as allowing costs.

Updates and Improvements:

As a result of the TOPOFF review, new exterior scene lighting has been added to V-1, V-2, T-1 and T-2 to increase safety during deployments and training. Additional improvements are currently being completed mainly due to member input into the After Action Report. Thanks!

News From the Front Office

Recruits:

- We have 61 new recruits that attended orientation on June 16, 2005
- Three Recruit classes have been scheduled for October 1, October 23 and December 3, 2005
Hazmat Recruits may be attending some additional Hazmat training courses

WMD Enhanced Operations Training:

- All USAR TF Members must have this course documented in their file (1 time)
- We will be offering it to Recruits October 23 and December 3, 2005 (it is a 2 day course, must attend both days for credit)
- This course will be open to any TF members who have not already completed this course
- Sign up with Barbara Kenney at bkenney@beverlyma.gov
- Prerequisites are:
 - ERT:BC
 - 29 CFR 1910.134 Respiratory Protection
 - Hazmat Awareness/Operations

Reminder to keep Driver's License, EMT and CPR cards up to date and ensure you have documented in your file:

- ICS 200 or above
- IS 100
- IS 700
- IS 800

Additional paging system being evaluated by the Task Force:

Global Connect. This system will allow us to:

- send voice messages and information to team members rapidly via telephone
- leave a voice message on answering machines
- receive information back based upon responses given by the receiver pressing the appropriate numbers as directed
other options exist that we will be trying as well

We are currently experimenting with and testing different options within the system. We will be sending these messages to your home phone and your cell phone(s) unless you advise us otherwise! Please listen carefully to any messages sent and respond appropriately. Please do not call the cache unless directed to do so.

This system is not going to replace the current paging system, but will be used in conjunction with it as deemed necessary.

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We're on the Web
www.matf.org

Submit your articles to TEAM MATTERS:

FOOD for THOUGHT (continued from Page 2)

Prevention

Education of dog owners and the incredible task of keeping dogs away from inappropriate foods are the best ways to prevent accidental as well as purposeful (due to ignorance) feeding of grapes and raisins to dogs.

Inducing Vomiting

Do not induce vomiting if:

More than 2 hours pass from ingestion

Substance will cause as much damage coming up as going down (acid, alkali, solvent, petroleum product)

Dog is comatose or very depressed, has lost swallow reflex, cannot stand

Ways to induce vomiting:

1 teaspoon hydrogen peroxide per 30 pounds body weight once orally, repeat after 10 minutes. Do not give more than 3 times. Dogs may drool and look utterly miserable before vomiting

1 teaspoon syrup of Ipecac per 10 pounds body weight, works quickly

½ to 1 teaspoon salt placed far back on the tongue or dissolved in 1 ounce of water. DO NOT

REPEAT. Dry mustard powder may be substituted, same instructions

References:

McKnight, Katrina: Grape and Raisin Toxicity in Dogs, Toxicology Brief, Veterinary Technician, February 2005, www.VeTechJournal.com

Consumer Alerts: Grape and Raisin Poisonings in Dogs, www.lapr.org/ConsumerAlert/

consumer_alerts.htm

Pets and Poisons, copyright 1992, 1993 by Cindy Title Moore, www.adoptagolden.com/k9stuff/

vetcorner/poisons/htm

TEAM MATTERS

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