

ORS TAC MINUTES

Date: 10/22/09
TAC: K-9 TAC
From: Pam Gibson

File Number:
Approved:



- I. **Attendees:** See attached sign in sheet dated 10/19/09.

- II. **Summary:** Introductions were made given this was the first re-grouping meeting of the K-9 TAC. Sandy Lesko, K-9 Chair went over the power point presentation which included information for K-9 resources and County EMA Directors. As stated by Tina Waymire, K-9 Technical Advisor, the K-9 Database currently contains only agency certified resources. Janelle Hideg, Midwest K-9 Search Unit, discussed why volunteers are hesitating going through the application/database process. Those issues were the need for free training that is on the weekends to include renewals of certifications. The costs of the certifications required to be added to the database. Need to be assured they (the volunteers) will be utilized when all certifications have been met. This was explained that no one can guarantee that, but going through the process and certifications will put them in the K-9 Resource Database. Law Enforcement agencies, OSHP and ODNR, in some cases cannot utilize volunteer teams due to the legalities of a crime scene. It was identified and agreed that these explanations of the ICS requirements and the various national certifications need to be taken to the volunteer groups. The K-9 TAC wants to encourage people to become certified which in turn will raise the bar. At this time all of the Ohio K-9 teams are unknown. The goal is to identify all teams and have them inputted into the database. The second item of concern was the insurance and workers comp liabilities of volunteer groups. Some teams do supply their own coverage, others do not and then some are sworn in by the county EMA Directors. The decision was made to add the question, do you have liability insurance and workers comp coverage, to the K-9 application as a place holder. The point was brought up that if this box is checked yes, does not guarantee the coverage has not been dropped since the application had been completed. How can it be controlled was the big question, Mel House will be checking with Ohio EMA's legal counsel concerning this issue. The last concern discussed was training and how the volunteers can be a part of that for little to no costs. There were various choices mentioned such as TEEKS, non FEMA USAR certification, Dayton's rubble pile, Geauga offered ICS training, nights and weekends, just to name a few. There is a vendor, SSI, which offers non FEMA courses. Mel stated there is funding and Dayton has the training site.

- III. **Action Items:** will be discussed at the next meeting:
 - Justin Cain of OPATA, will make the addition of the insurance liability question.
 - Mel House of Ohio EMA, will check with legal counsel on the insurance issue
 - Sandy Lesko, K-9 Chair, will make necessary changes to the power point
 - Troy Anderson, Auglaize County EMA, will spread the word with the various sectors
 - Mel House will get the K-9 Resources (TAC) onto the agenda for the Spring Directors' Conference; at least get them a break out session
 - Mel House will advise all county directors to check for K-9 resources within a 50-60 mile radius of their area
 - Deana Hudgins, Volunteer Liaison, will enhance the Homeland Security Regional map
 - Everyone in attendance was asked by Mel House, to send their suggestions or concerns to him or either one of the other committee members
 - Once the power point presentation is finalized and before it goes out to the counties, the Miami County Sheriff will have the opportunity to view it and make any necessary changes

- IV. **Next Meeting:** is scheduled for December 14, 2009, from 10am-noon, located at the Ohio EMA building at 2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd. Columbus, in Room #104.
- V. **After the Meeting:** Mel House has sent out Ohio training requirements, which Sandy Lesko, K-9 Chair, will be reviewing to ensure the K-9 TAC requirements are inline with them. If they are not there maybe a need for a K-9 subcommittee established to revise the K-9 training requirements as necessary.

Respectfully, Pam Gibson

Attachments: Sign in sheet from the 10-19-09 meeting