



# Request for City Council Committee Action from the Fire Department

**Date:** August 29, 2011

**To:** Council Member Don Samuels, Chair, Public Safety, Civil Rights & Health Committee

**Referral to:** Council Member Betsy Hodges, Chair, Ways & Means

**Subject:** Joint Powers Agreement for Minnesota Structural Collapse/Technical Rescue Task Force Organization (aka Minnesota Task Force One.)

**Recommendation:** Grant the Minneapolis Fire Department the authority to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with St. Paul Fire, Edina Fire, Rochester Fire and Dakota County Special Operations for the creation of Minnesota Structural Collapse/Technical Rescue Task Force Organization (aka Minnesota Task Force One.)

**Previous Directives:**

**Department Information**

Prepared by: Susan Wagner, Director of Finance & Logistics  
 Approved by: [Signature], Chair  
 Presented to Committee:

**Reviews**

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Civil Rights Approval Approval \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Impact** *(delete all lines not applicable to your request)*

- No financial impact
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget or Operating Budget
  - Dept Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Fund Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Project Name & Number (if capital budget): \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
  - Dept Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Fund Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name & Number (if capital budget): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Action is within the Business Plan
- Action requires a change to the Business Plan
- Request provided to the Finance Department
- Other financial impact

### **Community Impact**

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

### **Supporting Information**

In 2002 the State Homeland Security Capability Risk Assessment identified a gap in structural collapse response capabilities. In order to address this gap Minnesota Task Force One (MNT1) was created. MNT1 is a state structural collapse response team comprised of five host agencies including Minneapolis Fire, St Paul Fire, Edina Fire, Rochester Fire, and Dakota County Special Operations. These five agencies host special collapse rescue equipment and vehicles and have a number of members trained to respond as part of the structural collapse rescue team.

MNT1 is a state asset but its members all work for other jurisdictions making workers' compensation and liability issues during a MNT1 response quite difficult to effectively manage. In response to this, the state passed legislation in 2009 giving the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management the authority to determine what qualifies as a state team and when to activate a state team.

Since this legislation has passed, the ongoing discussion on workers' compensation and liability issues have led to the realization MNT1 would be best served by the formation of a Joint Powers Organization. This joint powers agreement (JPA) would allow the state to treat MNT1 as an entity and enter into a memorandum of understanding accepting workers' compensation and liability for a MNT1 response. This JPA would also assist in MNT1 response by allowing the incident commander to enter into a delegation of authority with the agency requesting assistance. Finally, the JPA also limits the amount of tort liability as there would only be one responding entity and not five.