



Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council Newsletter February 2022

Western Mass Technical Rescue Team Structural Collapse Exercise Series 2021

Last year, WRHSAC provided funds to the Western Mass Technical Rescue Team (WMTRT) to conduct a Structural Collapse Exercise series. The series began with a tabletop workshop and built upward with a drill to culminate in a full-scale exercise.

The exercise was held in September 2021 at the Local 98 Operator Union's training facility in Southwick, MA. Both WMTRT and WRHSAC thank the Local 98 for generously hosting the exercise.

The exercise series had multiple goals, including: test the team's internal systems, test the team's ability to coordinate with other specialty teams such as the Hazmat Teams and Mass State Police Bomb Squad, test communications abilities within the team and with other departments, and test ability for a multi-discipline response to a complex rescue incident.

The following video captures the activity of the full-scale exercise and reviews the goals tested.



Notice of Next Round of State Homeland Security Grant Funding

CALL FOR PROJECTS

WRHSAC anticipates receiving notice of the availability the FFY2022 State Homeland Security Program funds in the next two months. These funds will be for projects to be conducted from calendar year January 2023 through July 2024.

Throughout the month of March, WRHSAC's subcommittees will be considering potential projects to include in the FFY2022 Investment Plan. ***If your department, special team or agency is aware of a need or gap in emergency preparedness, response or recovery capabilities, please contact [Raine Brown](#), WRHSAC's Homeland Security Program Manager***, to discuss whether the project might fit within the Department of Homeland Security's mission nexus and be eligible for consideration in WRHSAC's FFY2022 Investment Plan. Projects can be planning, equipment, coordination, training or exercise in nature and must meet a regional need, not just a departmental need.

Project ideas will be received through the end of February 2022. Direct your inquires to [Raine](#).

Building Healthy Workplaces Leadership Training Virtual Offering Spring 2022

Would your agency benefit from steps which can help prevent on-the-job stress injuries? Would you like to promote mental health resilience in your organization but don't know where to begin?

Please join us for the upcoming **Building Healthy Workplaces: How to promote mental health in first responder organizations** virtual training series being held in March 2022.

This free training is *specifically designed for those in a leadership role in first responder departments*. Some of the learning highlights include:

- The importance of building a resilient workplace
- The role of leadership in promoting positive mental health
- Practical practices to promote positive mental health in the workplace
- How to measure and evaluate effectiveness of steps taken to improve workplace wellness
- How to identify and address stigma and its consequences
- In-house interventions and options for treatment
- Recovery at work options
- The role of training to increase mental health awareness

Lead by two trauma-informed and first responder occupationally aware clinicians, WRHSAC's Building Healthy Workplaces affords leadership a unique opportunity to delve into how mental health injuries affect the first responder community, hear from colleagues who have taken steps to successfully address mental health in the workplace, and begin to develop you own action plan.

Delivered in four, two-hour, live virtual sessions on Thursdays in March to April, the training is conveniently accessed from wherever you are.

Please join us! Registration is required.

[Click here to register!](#)



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