



Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council February 2023

Open Seats on the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council

Call for Candidates

WRHSAC has several open seats. We are accepting resumes and cover letters from interested parties. To qualify, you must be in a leadership position within your agency; for Police and Fire the seats are open to chiefs only. You must be serving on a first responder agency in one of the four counties of western Massachusetts.

Required commitment includes attending the WRHSAC monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00am. Currently the meetings are virtual. WRHSAC is subject to open meeting law. If Mass General Law lifts the ability for a quorum to meet virtually, meetings will be in-person, likely in the Northampton area. Members are also encouraged to participate in one or more of WRHSAC subcommittees.

The following seats are open:

- Fire - open to any fire chief in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire or Hampden County
- Police - open to any police chief in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire or Hampden County
- DPW - open to any municipal DPW/Highway Superintendent in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire or Hampden County

Resumes and letters of interest will be accepted through Friday, March 3, 2023 . Please explain your interest in WRHSAC and why you would be a good candidate. Send resumes and letters of interest to [Raine Brown](mailto:raine@frcog.org), raine@frcog.org, Homeland Security Program Manager at Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Notice of Available Funding

WRHSAC anticipates receiving notice of the availability the FFY2023 State Homeland Security Program funds in March. These funds will be for projects to be conducted from calendar year January 2024 through July 2025. 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](mailto:raine@frcog.org), 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 Friday, March 10, 2023.

Videos from First Responder Mental Health Resilience Conference

Videos and resources from WRHSAC's First Responder Mental Health Resilience Conference 2022 are now available on [WRHSAC website](#). We welcome you to review and engage with these resources at your convenience. WRHSAC is continuing its efforts related to mental health for first responders. Watch this newsletter for future trainings, tools and information.

Trainings from Partner Agencies

Bombing Prevention Awareness Course At Big E, West Springfield, Tuesday, April 11, 2023. 8:00am to 4:00pm. This course provides an overview of IEDs and explosive effects, homemade explosives, an introduction to the terrorist attack cycle, and response to suspicious behaviors and items. This basic awareness is used to enhance bombing prevention measures. To register [follow this link](#). You need a FEMA SID number. You may obtain a number [here](#). Intended audience: critical infrastructure owners and operators, public safety, emergency managers, facility security, force protection, law enforcement and private sector security professionals.

Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection Course at the Big E, West Springfield, Thursday, April 13, 2023, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This course provides participants with the knowledge and skills to successfully and safely inspect for, identify, and/or respond to vehicle-borne explosive threats. Follow [this link](#) to register. You need a FEMA SID number. You may obtain a number [here](#). Intended audience: critical infrastructure owners and operators, public safety, emergency managers, facility security, law enforcement and private sector security professionals.

Railroading 101 from Union Pacific Hazardous Materials Management Team an online, on-demand training for emergency responders and community leaders. Railroading 101 is one of a variety of hazardous materials trainings available. To learn more and access the training, download [this flyer](#).

WRHSAC
Western Region Homeland
Security Advisory Council



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