



Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant

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Serving a Public Power Community

NEWS RELEASE

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TMLP Hosts the Bristol County Technical Rescue Team for rescue exercise

(Taunton, MA) - On Saturday, January 12, 2012, the TMLP hosted the Bristol County Technical Rescue Team at its Cleary Flood power station. The BCTRT is comprised of firefighters from departments throughout the county with advanced training in technical rescue. The team practiced an advanced training exercise at the plant involving what is known as a "Confined Space Rescue" on the upper floor of the plant.

"Confined Space Rescue is the term used to describe an area that is large enough and so configured that an employee can enter, but has limited or restricted means of exit and is not designed for continuous occupancy" stated Al Costa, TMLP Coordinator of Production Operations and TMLP liaison for the event. "A storage tank or boiler certainly qualifies, and TMLP was chosen because it is considered a "target site" – meaning it may actually require the services of the BCTRT due to its environment and operations." According to Costa, "The Taunton Fire Department has established a positive working relationship with the TMLP and we were able to use that connection for this training. Lt. Kevin Farrar, Communications Officer for the TFD, was instrumental in coordinating the whole effort with the team and TMLP."

For this particular training scenario, the team went in to rescue a worker (a rescue mannequin) that had passed out inside the boiler. Teams made up of two rescuers each made an entry on air supply to locate and package the victim in a harness for extrication. The "victim" was then safely removed from the environment with a rope and pulley system and successfully lowered to a waiting stretcher. "It was an impressive training exercise to witness" stated Costa.

The Bristol County Technical Rescue Team members receive 112 hours of initial training and are required to attend 75% of the monthly drills. Many local departments are trained to the Awareness Level for technical emergencies, where they would recognize and be capable of assisting at a rescue. However, most do not have the particular training or equipment to perform at the Technician level. The BCTRT consists of 53 members on the team and they are all active firefighters in the cities and towns of Bristol County. They are specially trained in High and Low Angle rescue, trench rescue and Confined Space rescue.

"This training provided the BCTRT the chance to familiarize themselves with the facility and a chance to meet some of the TMLP employees" concluded Costa.

General Manager, Michael Horrigan; Commissioners; Peter Corr, Chairman, Joseph Martin, Secretary, Mark Blackwell Sr.