

## Standard Operating Guidelines

### HAZ-MAT First Responder

Guideline # 310.14

Date: 2/08 N

#### **PURPOSE**

This procedure identifies practices for Fire Department personnel trained to the operations level responding to hazardous materials calls.

#### **POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Fire Department to position apparatus and other emergency vehicles at a suspected hazardous materials incident at least 1000 feet from the incident. A size up will be given as to possible hazardous materials involved, the assessment of fire, explosion, health hazards, immediate emergency decontamination needs and other immediate actions. The standard size up format should be used. If scene warrants, contact a hazardous materials team. Have County Radio dispatch Berkley Haz-mat.

#### **RESPONSE**

Upon notification of a potential hazardous materials emergency, the following points need to be considered for a safe and efficient response:

1. Wind direction and velocity
2. Responding direction alternatives
3. Staying upwind and upgrade from suspected hazards areas.

#### **GENERAL**

DO NOT RISK THE LIVES OF EMERGENCY RESPONDERS IN ATTEMPTS TO RECOVER DEAD BODIES OR TO MITIGATE CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES THAT ARE OUT OF CONTROL.

The first arriving company shall try and identify the presence of hazardous materials that may be involved.

Personnel shall not attempt any process or procedure above their level of training.

#### **ISOLATION**

The area should be isolated and entry denied for all personnel. Keep out of smoke, fumes, and vapor clouds.

Utilize the Emergency Response Guidebook for initial action distances and zone considerations. Set up appropriate zones for hazard control and safety. 1) hot zone, 2)cold zone.

Establish a command post in the cold zone and announce the location.

As necessary, perform EMERGENCY DECONTAMINATION for victims suffering extreme discomfort from exposure. Wear full protective clothing and SCBA, and limit contact when possible.

## EVALUATE

The products, containers involved the location and other information need to be evaluated for further identification of hazardous materials. Identify the product WITHOUT entering the hot zone.

- Location or occupancy (pre-plan)
- Container shape or design
- Markings or color, NFPA 704, stenciled commodity name
- Placards or labels
- Shipping papers
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Reference books
- Senses, color of cloud, hissing noises, etc.

Size up the incident for the appropriate level.

Level 1- A potential emergency condition (simple to handle with resources available on scene).

- Small fuel spill of 15 gallons or less
- Natural gas leak not involving high pressure
- Toxic material in small quantity of 5 pounds or less

Level 2- Limited emergency condition (outside help needed from hazardous materials response team and or special equipment or resources).

- Flammable liquid spill over 15 gallons
- Large natural gas leak or high pressure leak
- Toxic material over 5 pounds in quantity

Level 3- A full emergency condition (local disaster where multiple jurisdictional areas are effected and included).

- Train derailments
- Leak from a large compressed gas vessel
- Leak from a cryogenic tank or cylinder

The listed examples are not absolutes or conditions that dictate what level an incident should be classified. If in doubt, classify to the next higher level and take appropriate steps for initiation. The following contacts need to be made as they pertain to emergency operations involving hazardous materials incidents, Level 2 or 3.

**Berkley hazardous Materials team, station 85  
Jackson Township Office of Emergency Management  
Department of Environmental Protection Agency, hotline (NJDEP),  
should be notified on all spills greater than five gallons.**

## MITIGATION

The following actions can be initiated and performed by personnel trained to the operations level. Since these actions are DEFENSIVE in nature, responders SHOULD NOT be in contact with the product for any reason. These actions should be in line with those listed in the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG).

All ignition sources should be eliminated from the hazard area including running apparatus.

Remote operated control valves can be used to control the release of a product if it is in a safe and hazard free area.

Vapor dispersion with water can be used to control toxic and hazardous effects of clouds and control movements.

If offensive actions are needed to help bring the incident to a close, a Hazardous Materials Response team will be notified to respond to render assistance.

When the HAZ-MAT team arrives on the scene a briefing will be conducted to include the following items:

- Product or products involved
- Containers involved
- Isolation zones
- Initial actions
- Hazards
- Life safety considerations
- Evacuation needs
- Special process concerns

Once the briefing has been conducted, the Hazardous Materials team will assume any and all actions that deal with the hazards, products, containers, or the environment.

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Approved:

District Chief

Date:

Company Chief

Date:

