

	<h1>COMMERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT</h1> <p>Standard Operating Guidelines</p>
	Subject: Haz-Mat Response
	Reference Number: 6.00
	Effective Date: 1/28/2012 Last Date Revised: 5/7/2015
	Approved By: Chief Kevin Dean

Purpose: The purpose of the guideline is to ensure the safety of all agency personnel who become involved in Hazardous Materials Incidents.

To provide a coordinated effort of agency personnel who are involved in mitigating Hazardous Materials Incidents within the current response areas of our response district or any other area in which members may be operating.

To provide a coordinated effort between agency personnel and non-department personnel who are involved in mitigating Haz-Mat incidents outside the normal service area of our agency.

Scope:

1. This guideline shall apply to all personnel involved in HazMat incidents.
2. This guideline shall apply to all operational level HazMat incidents and evolutions.
3. All agency personnel shall be trained annually to at least the awareness level.

NFPA 471, Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents standard shall be considered for reference.

Responsibilities:

1. The first arriving unit shall assume Command and begin size-up. Size-up includes:
 - A. Primary assessment.
 - B. Locating and securing witnesses.
 - C. Identifying and stabilizing immediate hazards without undue risk.
 - D. Identifying the number and locations as well as the condition of patients, e.g. ALS vs. BLS.
 - E. Environmental factors (light, temperature, weather).
 - F. Decision as to whether operation requires Level I, II, or III response.
 - G. Type of material involved.
 - H. Quantity of material involved.
 - I. Possibility of contamination.
 - J. Immediate exposure problem.
 - K. Threat to life safety.

2. Hazardous Materials Incident Classification Levels

A. Level I Incident:

- 1) Spills, leaks, releases, ruptures and/or fires involving hazardous materials which can be contained, extinguished, and/or abated utilizing equipment, supplies, resources immediately available to the first responders of the Commerce Fire Department.
- 2) The incident can properly be handled by our agency personnel whose qualifications are limited to and do not exceed the scope of training explained in SARA Title III (OSHA), Title 29 CFR Section 1910 with reference to first responders.
- 3) Hazardous materials incidents which do not require evacuation of civilians beyond the perimeter of incident scene isolation.

B. Level II Incident:

- 1) A hazardous materials incident which can only be identified, tested, sampled, contained, extinguished and/or abated utilizing the expertise of a regional Hazmat team. A hazardous materials incident which requires the use of any kind of specialized protective gear, tools, equipment or knowledge beyond the normal scope of a first responder.
- 2) A hazardous materials incident which requires the evacuation of civilians within the area of the fire department having jurisdiction.
- 3) Fires directly involving quantities of hazardous materials.
- 4) The incident can only be properly handled by a Hazmat Team whose qualifications meet or exceed the scope of training explained in SARA Title III (OSHA), Title 29 CFR Section 1910 with reference to hazardous materials technician.

C. Level III Incident:

- 1) Any actual or threat of spills, leaks, releases, or ruptures which can or must be contained and/or abated only by utilizing highly specialized equipment and supplies available to industrial response personnel or governmental agencies. Such equipment, techniques, and qualified personnel are in excess of or are in addition to those available from the on-scene hazardous materials response team.
- 2) Fires involving hazardous materials that are allowed to burn due to the ineffectiveness or dangers of the use of any kind of extinguishing agent; and/or there is a real threat of large container failure; and/or an explosion, detonation, BLEVE or container failure has already occurred.
- 3) Hazardous materials incidents which require a significant evacuation of civilians or evacuation has extended across jurisdictional boundaries; and/or there are serious civilian injuries and/or deaths as a result of the hazardous materials incident.

- 4) Hazardous materials incidents which require additional Hazmat personnel or an additional Hazardous Material Response Team on scene; and/or extensive decontamination of Fire Department personnel, equipment or civilians are required.
- 5) The hazardous materials incident has become one of multi-agency involvement.
- 6) The incident can only be properly handled by a Hazmat Team whose qualifications meet or exceed the scope of training explained in SARA Title III (OSHA), Title 29 CFR Section 1910 with reference to hazardous materials specialist.

3. The Hazmat Team leader shall not function as IC, however, he/she shall function as team leader through the IC.

A. The Incident Commander shall be responsible for all operations directed toward the containment and mitigation of the hazards at the scene of a hazardous materials incident including, but not limited to:

- 1) Rescue and first aid.
- 2) Product identification.
- 3) Scene stabilization and management.
- 4) Agency notification.
- 5) Scene Isolation.
- 6) Personnel protection.
- 7) Safety.
- 8) Decontamination.
- 9) Enforcement of all applicable laws and regulations.
- 10) Agency procedures.

a. The Incident Commander shall secure and maintain immediate control until the situation has been corrected or abated.

b. The Incident Commander shall utilize the Incident Command System.

4. It shall be the responsibility of each member of our agency, who participates in Hazmat operations, not to exceed their level of training while conducting such operations.

Guidelines:

Level I Hazmat Incidents shall be handled by our agency having jurisdiction on a first responder level. First in company officer shall inform dispatch of a Level 1 Hazmat incident and on scene units can handle.

1. Upon arrival, company officer shall establish contact and communications with the agency first on-scene, if other than fire department.
2. Company officer and members will proceed to mitigate the problem.
 - A. Approach scene upwind, and upgrade, if possible.
 - B. Initiate procedures to protect or remove civilians from the immediate area.

- C. Isolate scene, and protect using yellow barrier tape or cones to identify the warm zone.
- D. Ensure crew assignments are within the expertise and limitations of their equipment, protective gear and training.
- E. Gather information regarding the incident and the product.
- F. Initiate containment techniques within the scope of their capabilities and training.

Level II and Level III Hazmat Incidents requiring Hazmat Team response may be upgraded from Level I by any on scene commander. This will initiate dispatch of the Hazmat Team.

1. Criterion for Decontamination.

- A. Obvious or suspected contamination by a known or unknown substance.
- B. Possible contamination from a highly toxic substance.
- C. Prevent spread of material from the hot zone.
- D. Protect the environment.
- E. Eating, drinking, or smoking in any contaminated area is strictly prohibited. Smoking materials, candies, chewing gum, or other materials that may be orally consumed shall not be carried on the person(s) who enter contaminated work areas.

2. Control Zones

A. Warm Zone (Limited Access Zone)

- 1) The warm zone shall be a designated area to define where some potential or real danger exists with respect to safety and health to the public, and harm to the environment.
- 2) Identification of the warm zone shall be done by the first arriving company officer and updated by the IC as necessary. Yellow barrier tape or cones shall be used to identify the boundaries of the warm zone.
- 3) Access into the warm zone shall be controlled as necessary by the site access control leader, ordinarily a Hazmat Team Member. Access shall be limited to only those members of agencies on scene who are protected and are directly engaged in incident ground activities at the direction of the IC or the Hazmat Team Leader.

B. Hot Zone (Restricted Zone)

- 1) The hot zone shall be designated as necessary by the Hazmat Team Leader and shall be utilized to identify and define an area of exceptional danger or potential danger including danger to life safety.
- 2) Identification of the boundaries of the hot zone shall be with the use of red barrier tape or cones.
- 3) Access in to the hot zone shall be controlled by the Hazmat Leader. Only properly protected and equipped members of the Hazmat Team and other designated workers will be allowed to enter the hot zone.

C. Zone Area Dimensions - The following criteria shall be considered in determining the zone dimensions:

- 1) Physical and topographical barriers.
- 2) Weather conditions.
- 3) Monitoring data and measurements.
- 4) Explosion/exposure potential.
- 5) Physical, chemical, toxicological characteristics of the substances or materials involved.
- 6) Cleanup activities.

3. Cleanup, Re-packing, Disposal

A. Our agency will not engage in the cleanup and/or removal of hazardous materials when such actions circumvent the responsibilities of the responsible parties, environmental contractors and/or any State or Federal Agency.

B. Our agency shall not circumvent existing state and Federal law regarding cleanup and abatement requirements.

C. The Commerce Fire Department may elect to abate certain small spills when within the capabilities of the department, and when within the constraints of law and outside agency guidelines.

4. Evacuation and Sheltering

A. Evacuation is to be considered under the following conditions:

- 1) Immediate danger of fire or explosion exists.
- 2) Potential for discharge is great, has not taken place, and affords enough time to relocate people.
- 3) Discharge has taken place and people are sufficiently protected to permit time for evacuation.
- 4) People who are not in the path of a release may be threatened by future and changing conditions.

B. Large-scale evacuations will be directed by the IC and may require the coordinated efforts of several agencies.

C. Sheltering in place is to be considered under the following conditions:

- 1) Preplanning has identified options for problem areas such as hospitals, jails, nursing homes, public assemblies, etc.
- 2) Evacuation cannot be properly managed with the manpower, appropriate allowable time frames, resources, and facilities presently available.

3) The hazardous material involved displays the following characteristics:

- Low to moderate toxicity.
- Totally released and dissipating.
- Small quantity solid or liquid leak.
- A migrating vapor of low toxicity and quantity and people are safer indoors than outside.
- Release can be rapidly controlled or stopped at the source.

Cleanup Operations

1. Cleanup operations are not a function of our agency.
2. We will cooperate with the EPD and/or other appropriate agencies to supply information that will be helpful concerning cleanup.

Upon conclusion of operations, control of the area shall be passed to the appropriate agency responsible for the site at that time, including the responsible party (spiller).

In the event a responsible agency or spiller refuses to respond to a request from our agency to report to the scene or fails to act appropriately to its responsibility, the Fire Chief shall be contacted immediately.