

Policy: **Hazardous Materials Response**

Purpose: To provide a basic guideline for Hazmat responses. This guideline is to ensure all personnel will have access to a Guideline that will apply to most known hazmat incidents. This guideline also provides for the maximum safety of personnel while operating at the hazmat incident. Northern Piatt FPD operates only at the awareness level.

This guideline provides a general framework for handling a hazmat incident, but does not address the special tactics or control measures for a particular incident.

Scope: This policy applies to all NPPFD personnel

Definition

A Hazardous Material(s) Incident is defined as the release of a material or substance through fire, spill, leak, explosion, accident, chemical reaction, or similar event, that may pose an immediate or long term hazard to life, health, or the environment. The hazard may include toxicity, flammability, radiological, corrosives, explosive health hazards, chemical reactions or a combination of forces.

Policy

Personnel shall observe all safety precautions and wear full PPE and SCBA (where appropriate) when dealing with a hazmat incident.

Action Prior to Response

Obtain the wind direction and speed from the dispatcher. Log the information on the NFIRS form. Check map(s) and approach the incident from the wind. (Note: normal response routing may have to be altered.)

Request the dispatcher to notify the proper law enforcement agencies.

If chemical name was given, log the name and look it up in the DOT Emergency Guidebook.

Start response, making notes and logging any further information given by the dispatcher, or that becomes available.

First Arriving Unit

Approach should be slow and from upwind. Stop short of the incident to evaluate the effects of the wind, visible product, placards and the lay of the land. It will probably be necessary to use binoculars to assist in observing the incident.

The apparatus driver should consider backing the apparatus in toward the incident, for immediate evacuation.

Establish Incident Command as outlined in the Incident Command Guideline.

Designate the staging area for other responding units.

Establish an isolation area, if material is identified, use recommended distance. If material is not identified, establish isolation based on incident factors such as wind speed and direction, temperature, terrain, population, and size of the spill or leak.

Rescue occupants of the isolation area if possible and proper protective clothing is available.

Deny entry without proper PPE.

Establish site work area that does not exceed awareness level.

- Support Zone and Command Post

Contact CHEMTREC (1-800-424-9300) if the material is known. If unknown, contact CHEMTREC with as much information as possible, as soon as possible in identifying the material.

Based upon information received, determine an evacuation distance and refer to law enforcement officials.

Size Up

Command must take a careful size-up before deciding on a commitment. It may be necessary to take immediate action to make a rescue or evacuate an area, but this should be done with an awareness of the risk to Fire Department personnel and taking advantage of available protective equipment.

The objective of the size-up is to identify the nature and severity of the immediate problem and gather sufficient information to formulate a valid action plan. A Hazmat incident requires a more cautious and deliberate size-up than most fire situations.

Avoid premature commitment of companies and personnel to potentially hazardous locations. Proceed with caution in evaluating risks before formulating a plan and keep uncommitted companies at a safe distance. **Do not exceed training level of Hazmat Awareness.**

Identification

The major problem in most cases is to identify the type of materials involved in a situation and the hazards presented, before formulating a plan of action. Look for labels, markers, placards, and shipping papers, ask personnel at the scene (facility managers, responsible party, truck drivers).

Utilize reference manuals/materials carried on the apparatus.

Regardless of the source of information, it must be based on factual information obtained at the incident scene. Most sources of information will require the following as a minimum:

- Name of caller and call back number
- Nature of location of the problem
- DOT guide number you are using
- Shipper and/or manufacturer
- Container type and estimated capacity
- Rail car or truck number
- Carrier's name
- Consignee
- Local conditions

It should be remembered that at these types of incidents, there may be individuals that represent themselves as "experts" that offer unsolicited advice. Caution should be exercised when dealing with these types of individuals. It may be advisable to request credentials from anyone offering unsolicited information.

Notification

The following agencies shall be notified of any incident involving hazardous materials, via the dispatcher:

- Piatt County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency
- Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Piatt County Health Department
- Hazardous Materials Response Team (Champaign Fire Department)

Personnel should exercise caution when approaching all transportation type incidents. Personnel should be aware, that even though an incident is not dispatched as a "hazardous materials" incident, that hazardous materials may be present.

By the Order of: _____
Fire Chief

Date: _____