

This guideline provides North Zone Agencies procedures for responding to a hazardous materials incident.

The Department of Transportation and OSHA define hazardous materials as follows:

- OSHA – Hazardous Chemical: Any substance to which exposure “results or may result in adverse affects on the health and safety of employees:” or “any chemical which is a physical hazard or health hazard.” 29 CFR 1910.1200(c)
- DOT – Hazardous Material: “...substance or material, which has been determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce... The term includes hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, marine pollutants, and elevated temperature materials as defined in this section...”49 CFR 171.8.

Responses to hazardous materials incidents by the North Zone Agencies will include the following objectives:

- Protect life, environment, and property. (In that order)
- Assess the degree of the hazard.
- Identification of material(s).
- Contain the material in a defensive action, if possible.
- Notify the appropriate agencies.
- Assure proper documentation and overall scene management.

NOTIFICATION:

The Dispatch Center will be notified when there is a spill or leak of a hazardous material substance. They will dispatch the proper assignment based upon the degree and nature of the incident.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Incident Commander is responsible for and in charge of the incident. Incident Commanders shall be certified and be competent in:

- Implementing the Incident Command System.
- Implementing applicable emergency response plans.
- Know and understand the hazards and risks associated with chemical protective clothing.
- Have knowledge of the State Emergency Response Plan, and the Federal Regional Response Team.
- Know and understand the importance of decontamination procedures.

The North Zone Agencies will be the lead agency in charge and assume command responsibilities within the Zone.

SCENE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- On state highways and county roads, scene management will be with the California Highway Patrol.
- On city roads, scene management will be the responsibility of Law Enforcement unless legal delegations have been given to the fire department.
- Off road, scene management will be with Law Enforcement unless legal delegations have been given to the fire department.

The Incident Commander is responsible for the overall management and coordination of a hazardous material incident.

FIRST RESPONDER OPERATIONS LEVEL:

Department personnel who have been trained and certified to the First Responder Operational Level may respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances in the following manner per CCR 5192(q):

- Provide for safety of all personnel and the public.
- Safely isolate and deny entry.
- Make appropriate notifications and request appropriate resources.
- Protect the environment from the effects of the release.
- Contain the release from a safe distance, and keep it from spreading.
- Protect exposures.

Note: Personnel will do all of the above in a defensive fashion only.

FIRST RESPONDER INCIDENT COMMANDER LEVEL:

Department personnel who have been trained and certified to the First Responder Incident Commander Level may respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances in the following manner per Title 8, CCR, 5192 (q)(3):

- Identify all hazardous substances or conditions present.
- Based on identification, implement appropriate operations, and assure use of proper personal protective clothing.
- Assure personnel exposed to inhalation hazard(s) wear SCBA.
- Limit the number of on-site personnel, but the buddy system must be used.
- Assure back-ups and standby EMS is available.
- Designate a Safety Officer with knowledge of hazardous materials operations.
- Implement appropriate decontamination.

OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Isolate the area and deny entry. Use cones, banner tape, or natural barriers.

Identify the product and the product's characteristics only if it can be done from a safe distance. Identification can be made by using a combination of the following:

- Identification of the container type
- Labels/Placards
- Shipping Manifests
- Bill of Lading
- Shipping Papers
- DOT Guidebook
- Other written reference sources (minimum of 3 different references)

Personnel should not forget to consult with the people actually involved in the incident who may be knowledgeable about the product. In addition, the following resources can assist in identification of the product.

- Hazardous Materials Team (HIRT)
- County Department of Environmental Health - Hazardous Materials Management Unit
- Other Company Representatives
- Chemtrec

NOTIFICATIONS:

It is imperative all agencies that may have responsibility in handling the incident be contacted and an agency representative be requested to the scene. The Incident Commander is responsible for assuring the appropriate agencies are contacted. This could include any of the following:

- On-Call Battalion Chief/Duty Chief
- California Highway Patrol
- Cal Trans
- City Public Works Department
- County Department of Environmental Health
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Health Services
- Hazardous Materials Response Team
- Law Enforcement

- Air Pollution Control District (APCD)
- County Public Works Department
- Appropriate Water District(s)
- County Flood Control
- School Superintendent if the incident is located within 1/2 mile of a school

EVACUATIONS:

When the decision has been made to evacuate an area in close proximity to a hazardous materials incident, four objectives must be accomplished.

- Notification - Direct people where to go
- Transportation - Move occupants to a safe location, provide transportation if necessary
- Relocation - Keep occupants housed, fed, and informed
- Information - Keep occupants informed of your progress

Evacuations may be needed when there are:

- Leaks involving unknown gases from large capacity storage containers
- Explosives or large quantities of materials, which could detonate or explode damaging structures in the immediate area
- Leaks that cannot be controlled and are expected to continue leaking
- Leaks that cannot be controlled that may be involved in fire and cannot be controlled by emergency response personnel - civilians are at risk

IN PLACE PROTECTION:

In place protection may be a viable option when:

- The material has been identified and is a moderate to low health hazard
- Personnel are limited to assist with the evacuation and isolation zones cannot be properly managed
- The material has been totally released from its container and is quickly dissipating
- The material is migrating a toxic vapor cloud and the citizens are safer inside structures than what they would be outside of them
- Short duration solid or liquid leaks are present
- Migrating vapor cloud(s) low in toxicity and quantity are occurring
- Vapor cloud(s) form a migrating plume
- Leaks can be rapidly controlled at their source

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CONTROL ZONES:

Control zones or safety zones are to be established on all hazardous materials incidents. They are as follows:

- Exclusion Zone - Area where the spill or incident is located. Special protective clothing may be required to enter this zone.
- Contamination Reduction Zone - Area where decontamination procedures will take place. Special protective clothing may be required to enter this zone.
- Support Zone - Where the Incident Command Post will be established. Must be a safe area not subject to contamination.

BASIC SPILL GUIDELINES FOR ENGINE COMPANY PERSONNEL:

- Fire Agency should conform to Storm Water Runoff Policy.
- Never wash a spill down a drain.
- Dike with dirt or sand.
- Use City Public Works or County Public Works for sand or absorbent. If the roads are private, try to make contact with the property owner to obtain clean up supplies.
- If the spill is less than 20 gallons and is a basic hydrocarbon product such as gasoline or oil, absorb with sand/absorbent and sweep to the side of the road.
- When responding to a flammable liquid spill, Incident Commanders must first consider the health issues and then work on handling the fire problem. In some cases, fire companies may be required to stay on scene until the fire potential has been abated.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CLEAN UP AND COST RECOVERY ISSUES:

As a rule, the person responsible for causing the spill and/or the property owner is responsible for the clean up of a hazardous materials incident. The Duty Battalion Chief/Duty Chief is to be consulted for assistance with handling clean up issues.

AFTER ACTION REPORTING:

A number of agencies require some form of after action report following an incident. Hazardous materials incidents are to be documented as follows:

- Agency-specific incident reporting system.
- The Incident Commander shall coordinate with HIRT/Environmental Health the notification to State OES regarding the release.