

PURPOSE:

To establish a uniform procedure for response to and safety at an incident involving hazardous materials.

Background:

The following procedure will be followed during any response where the presence of HAZARDOUS MATERIALS is determined. The presence of hazardous materials will be assumed during all responses until it has been determined that none are present. The various clues available will be used: Shape of Containers, Placards and Labels, Colors or Markings, Shipping Papers, Color of smoke or discharge, Odors, Loud Noises, or any other indication of unusual conditions. Use the 8-Step process for decision making. (Figure 1200)

Procedure:

The following steps shall be taken once the presence of HAZARDOUS MATERIALS has been determined or is strongly suspected.

1. The scene shall be secured and no one, civilian or emergency response personnel, shall be permitted to enter. Anyone who has been in the immediate area of the Hazardous Materials shall be taken to a safe location and held for decontamination.
2. The officer in charge shall establish INCIDENT COMMAND.
3. Steps shall be taken to identify the product or products involved.
4. The Incident Commander shall appoint a knowledgeable SAFETY OFFICER. The Safety Officer shall have no other duties and shall have the authority to countermand any order given at the scene if it involves imminent danger.
5. Once the products involved have been identified, the characteristics of the products shall be determined. The primary reference shall be the DOT EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDE. The HOT ZONE dimensions shall be determined from that reference. CHEMTREC shall be contacted through Valley Shore and at least one other current reference shall be consulted for further information. Three references, including at least one live source that are in agreement, shall be used in the decision making process.
6. Establish the Level of the Incident (Level I, II or III). The required level of protective clothing shall be determined from the references. An entry into the HOT ZONE with structural firefighting gear shall not be attempted unless CHEMTREC and at least two other references indicate this is adequate. No entries will be made without this

minimum level of protection. Fire gear will be taped at all openings. Latex gloves will be worn under firefighting gloves.

7. SCBA will be worn in the HOT and WARM ZONES until air sampling has indicated a lesser degree of protection is adequate.
8. The DEP will be notified through Valley Shore Communications, and requested to respond.
9. Decontamination will be set up in accordance with SOP 1201 prior to any entry into the HOT ZONE.
10. Equipment and personnel shall be staged at a safe distance from the scene to prevent exposure and contamination.
11. Crews shall work in pairs with a backup crew in an equivalent level of protection within visual contact of the working crew.
12. An ambulance shall be requested to the scene to standby for emergency response crew emergencies. This is in addition to any equipment required for victims of the initial incident.
13. An evaluation shall be made to determine if an entry should be made or not, based on hazards to emergency response personnel, and the chance of successful mitigation of the incident.
14. If the proper level of protective clothing is available, AND the hazards analysis indicates that action should be taken, AND sufficient trained personnel are available, the incident should be handled in the defensive mode by damming and diking spills at a safe distance or removing victims from danger areas. The response shall be conducted at the FIRST RESPONDER OPERATIONAL LEVEL.

SUBJECT: Decontamination procedures

PURPOSE:

To establish a uniform procedure for decontamination to be used in any incident involving hazardous materials.

Background:

The following minimum level of decontamination shall be established at any hazardous materials incident where decontamination is required. The decontamination procedure shall include a gross and a secondary wash down, removal of structural firefighters' clothing and SCBA, a final face wash and hands washing and medical debriefing. A final showering will take place off-site if deemed necessary.

Procedure: Set-up (see Diagram)

1. Identify the decontamination area with traffic cones. The area should extend from the hot zone to the cold zone and if possible run up hill from the hot zone so that any runoff will flow back to the hot zone.
2. All personnel operating in the warm zone and the decontamination team shall be in full protective clothing with all openings sealed with duct tape and SCBA.
3. Lay plastic the length of the decontamination area. The edges should be rolled up and taped to control runoff. If heavy runoff is anticipated, the slope is towards the cold zone and / or it is raining, additional diking will be required.
4. Set up two inflatable swimming pools, porta tanks or other similar equipment at the hot zone end of the area. The two tanks / pools should be adjacent to each other. If using a porta-tank use plastic to line the inside of the tank. Wood blocks should be placed in the tanks to prevent personnel from walking in contaminated water.
NOTE: The decontamination team should take the wind direction into consideration to prevent contamination of the decontamination team in control.
5. Long handled brushes and buckets should be provided for the gross decontamination tank.
6. A strong detergent solution should be prepared and brushes provided for the secondary decontamination tank.
7. Clean pails with a detergent solution should be provided for the last stage face and hands wash station.

8. Plastic bags should be set out for the collection of contaminated protective clothing.
9. An applicator (goose neck type) nozzle should be provided with an adequate water supply for the gross decontamination tank and a garden hose with nozzle for the secondary decontamination tank.
10. EMS personnel shall man the Medical Debriefing Station at the cold zone boundary. Vital signs shall be taken and recorded and all personnel informed of the signs and symptoms of the chemicals they have been exposed to. They should be informed to seek immediate medical attention if they exhibit any of the symptoms.

Procedure: Decontamination

1. Enter the gross decontamination tank and be washed down and brushed of any visible contamination. This includes the bottom of the boots.
2. Step into the secondary decontamination tank and be brushed down with detergent and rinsed off. Personnel requiring a full air bottle, who are re-entering the hot zone, will step out of the side of the tank. They will disconnect the mask and re-connect to a SCBA being held by an assistant. The bottle will then be changed and the mask reconnected prior to re-entry.
3. Those not re-entering the hot zone should step from the tank and proceed to the gear removal area. Removal of gear should proceed as follows:
 - Leave mask on while the SCBA is removed by an assistant.
 - Remove helmet, coat, boots and bunker pants and place in a plastic bag.
 - Remove outer gloves, leaving on latex gloves.
 - Remove SCBA mask
 - Remove latex gloves
 - Wash and rinse hands & face
4. Proceed to the EMS station for debriefing.
5. If further decontamination is indicated, the Incident Commander will acquire a vehicle, which will be lined with plastic, to transport personnel to a location for controlled showering. Runoff may need to be controlled during showering.

DECON STATION

