



Standard Operating Guideline	
SOG Name:	HazMat Response
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Standard:	TBD
Guideline Owner:	Emergency Operations – Incident Operations
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Authority:	Larry H. Williams, Jr, Fire Chief

PURPOSE: In order to select qualified individuals, define training requirements, and establish response criteria for the Hazardous Materials Team.

A. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION AS A NEW HAZMAT TEAM MEMBER

SECTION 1

Basic entry qualifications are as follows:

1. Must be off probationary status.
2. Be currently certified as Firefighter II.
3. Must be willing to participate in not less than 40 hours of team training annually and be subject to emergency off duty call-in when properly notified.
4. Be currently certified as an Alabama Hazardous Materials Technician.

B. TRAINING

SECTION 1

Hazardous Materials Team members will maintain an Alabama Hazardous Materials Technician Certification.

SECTION 2

A minimum of 40 hours of team level training annually is required for every member. This training must be documented and recorded at the Training and Safety Division.

SECTION 3

All members must have and pass an annual medical examination as provided by the Dothan Fire Department.

SECTION 4

All members must be team qualified in the following areas:

- Defensive tactical operations
- Spill and leak control
- Decontamination
- Chemical protective equipment
- Detection and monitoring

SECTION 5

Members are expected to attend advanced level training when provided by the Dothan Fire Department.

C. INCIDENT RESPONSE**SECTION 1**

All members are subject to emergency off-duty call-in when properly notified.

SECTION 2

Off-duty members should respond to the staging area when notified and report to the Staging Officer. The Staging Officer will notify the Hazardous Materials Team Officer of resources in staging. All off-duty responding members must report with their structural firefighting PPE.

SECTION 3

Following an incident, all Hazardous Materials Team members will report back to Station 2 to clean and secure equipment and to complete response records. All members will be released from duty by the appropriate Battalion Chief.

SECTION 4

Under the authority of the Fire Chief, the Hazardous Materials Team provides response resources to hazardous materials incidents and potential releases in the City of Dothan and as a component of the Alabama Mutual Aid System (AMAS).

SECTION 5

The Hazardous Materials Team will conduct contingency planning for responses to probable hazardous materials incidents in our city and region.

SECTION 2

The Hazardous Materials Team will provide resources to isolate and deny entry to hazardous areas, determine evacuation needs, protect in place and coordinate with city, state, and federal agencies to provide resources and mitigation assistance.

SECTION 3

The Hazardous Materials Team will conduct an Incident Action Plan and risk assessment in the following manner:

1. Evaluate the magnitude of the threat to the health and welfare of the public as well as to the environment.
2. Determine if response action by the responsible party(s) is adequate.
3. Collect the data necessary to formulate a tactical plan if an offensive operation is warranted.

SECTION 4

The Hazardous Materials Team will contact the owner and/or operator of the source of the release, if known, to inform them of their potential liability for removal/cleanup costs and explain the team's role in hazardous materials mitigation while gathering information for response and safety purposes.

SECTION 5

After conducting a risk assessment, the Hazardous Materials Team will carry out immediate mitigation objectives. Immediate mitigation will focus on developing the objectives necessary to stabilize the incident prior to the arrival of a cleanup contractor or responsible party.

SECTION 6

The Hazardous Materials Team will monitor cleanup operations of the responsible party. If no owner and/or operator can be found, the Houston County EMA must be notified to negotiate the cleanup. The Hazardous Materials Team is not expected to be capable of designing and/or implementing a complex cleanup plan, however, the team shall ensure that response workers and the public are adequately protected.

D. LEVEL OF RESPONSE CAPABILITY**SECTION 1**

The Hazardous Materials Team shall maintain proficiency consistent with NFPA 472 and 473, as well as CFR Title 29 1910.120. This will include technician competencies for Totally Encapsulating Chemical Protection (TECP).

SECTION 2

When sufficient entry level personnel are not available due to inadequate personnel/equipment resources, the team shall request additional personnel and adopt a defensive mode until staffing requirements are achieved. Specifically, members shall perform non-entry (defensive) responsibilities until hazmat trained personnel arrive.

E. MISSION STRATEGIES**SECTION 1**

The mission strategies of the Dothan Fire Department include:

1. Readiness - which includes training and contingency planning
2. Response - which includes all functions that lead to incident stabilization
3. Recovery – which includes overseeing cleanup to protect the public and environment

SECTION 2

A site assessment is necessary to determine the extent and/or effects of a release or a potential release. An effective site assessment may require personnel to work in or near the area of release in order to gather information regarding the nature of material(s) and the potential impact to citizens, property, and the environment.

SECTION 3

Response activities will always be conducted by team personnel who are properly trained and equipped. In addition, the development of a site safety plan will precede these activities.

F. INCIDENT LEVELS**SECTION 1**

Hazardous Materials incidents vary greatly in their magnitude and degree of hazard. Because of this, it is necessary for the Incident Commander to be able to evaluate the level of the hazard involved. Resource requirements are determined based on the hazard type and the level of release/probable release. The following guidelines classify hazardous materials incidents into two levels of complexity and resource commitment. By reporting the level of the incident, the Incident Commander can inform the Communications Center, as well as responding companies, as to the initial size-up and projected resource requirements.

SECTION 2

All incidents involving the release of a hazardous material shall be reported to the Communications Center using the following terminology:

- 1. Level I Incident** - a release that can be controlled by one Engine Company. Examples include minor liquid fuel leaks/spills, investigation of odors, and minor natural gas leaks. Level I incidents may require simple product identification or verification, and limited spill/leak intervention. The Incident Commander may elect to consult the team for technical advice either by radio or telephone.
- 2. Level II Incident** - a release that requires the response of the Hazardous Materials Team (Hazmat 2 and Engine 6). This type of release may involve substantial quantities of common liquid fuels or smaller quantities of extremely hazardous substances (EHS). This level may require the recall of off duty Hazmat Technicians. The proper agencies should be notified if a reportable quantity has been spilled.

G. SCOPE OF OPERATIONS**SECTION 1**

If it is safe to do so, the Company Officer must detect the presence and identify the type of material involved and any other hazards present.

SECTION 2

The Company Officer should isolate and secure the incident area in as safe a manner as possible to prevent accidental exposure to an immediate hazardous situation. A physical barrier, such as fire line tape, should be used to mark off the “hot” or danger zone. A starting distance of at least 200’ in all directions should be the minimum exclusionary zone until specific information about evacuation zones can be referenced.

SECTION 3

The Company Officer must evacuate the areas that may be exposed to hazardous materials to protect life.

SECTION 4

The Company Officer should limit the spread of hazardous materials spills to the smallest possible area without further exposure by controlling or stopping the leak/release of product while ensuring minimal risk for personnel.

SECTION 5

Prior to arrival, the responding units must request wind direction and speed from Communications. This will enable the first arriving officer to determine a suitable route for **approaching the incident upwind and upgrade**. Once this is determined, the officer must advise over the radio the route for all units to approach and stage.

SECTION 6

Isolate the immediate area and deny entry of all non-essential personnel to the area of the suspected hazardous material incident.

SECTION 7

Establish a **“hot zone”** and restrict personnel from coming in contact with hazardous vapors, liquids, or solids.

SECTION 8

Make all attempts to identify the hazardous material and reference the chemical hazards and properties of the material **before taking action or exposing personnel to a possible hazardous environment**. Information that must be obtained includes:

1. Dispatch information (wind speed, direction, specific chemical information)
2. Information from property owners, business managers, vehicle drivers, plant operators, industry safety personnel, etc. managers, drivers, operators, etc.
3. Information from witnesses
4. Visually inspect to see if signs of exposure have occurred (victims, animals, vegetation, clouds, steam, etc.)
5. Attempt to locate DOT or NFPA placards and/or labels
6. Obtain Shipping papers or other chemical identifying documents (i.e. non-contaminated product labels, Material Safety Data Sheets)
7. Evaluate container shape and size while determining if the container is stressed or breached

8. Look for the presence of an unidentified material: gas or vapor, liquid leak or spill, solid particle spill

SECTION 9

If there is a leak or release of a suspected hazardous material, the following information must be determined:

1. Size of the spill
2. Size of the vapor cloud
3. Amount and/or potential amount of release
4. Direction and rate of spill or vapor cloud travel
5. Life exposures and property exposures to the suspected hazardous material

SECTION 10

When there is a release of a known or unknown material and there are indications that the product may be a hazardous material, the following actions should be taken:

1. Isolate the area
2. Deny entry of all unauthorized personnel
3. Dispatch the appropriate Battalion Chief
4. Dispatch the Hazardous Materials Team
5. Refer to the DOT Emergency Response Guide and follow the instructions (For unknown materials use Guide #11)
6. Determine the need to evacuate and request assistance from PD if needed.
7. Eliminate ignition sources
8. Contain the spill and/or control the runoff if it can be accomplished **without exposing personnel to the hazardous material** (solid, liquid, or vapor).
9. Rescue the injured, **only** if it is a life threatening situation. Do not enter the "Hot Zone" and avoid chemical contact if the life of the rescuer is at risk.
10. Develop a rescue/EMS plan
11. Conduct risk/benefit and determine risk to personnel
12. Establish a decontamination area ("warm zone")
13. Isolate exposed victims and personnel in an emergency decontamination area
14. Perform patient care

SECTION 11

Once it is determined that a Hazardous Material event has occurred, the Incident Commander must assign the qualified members to serve as the Hazardous Material Operations Officer and the Incident Safety Officer.

SECTION 12

When identifying the product or establishing "Operational Zones," the minimum PPE shall be full structural firefighting protective clothing and positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus. As soon as it is determined that more protection is required, the Incident Commander must establish the new PPE requirements.

H. CLEAN UP AND DISPOSAL OPERATIONS**SECTION 1**

When the hazardous material spill or release is contained and the hazards to life and property are controlled, clean up, disposal, and long range environmental protection are the next major concerns. The property owner, the waste generator, or the waste shipper is responsible for the safe and proper clean-up of the incident site.

I. NOTIFICATIONS FOR HAZARDOUS SPILL/RELEASE LOCATIONS**SECTION 1**

The Incident Commander will advise the property owner or manager that it is their responsibility to properly clean up the hazardous waste and make the site safe. If the property owner/manager will not or cannot accept this responsibility, the following responsible individuals will be notified of the incident and situation status:

1. Fire Chief
2. City Manager
3. Police Chief
4. City Attorney
5. Health Department Director

J. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSES**SECTION 1**

The Hazardous Materials Team will respond for all Hazmat Level II when any of the following occur:

- Report of chemical or hazardous material leak or spill
- Transportation emergencies involving hazardous materials
- Flammable/combustible liquid spills over 10 gallons
- Fires involving chemicals or hazardous materials
- Emergency medical incidents when people are exposed to poisons, radioactive material, or corrosives (incidents requiring Hazardous Materials Decontamination)
- Any rescue involving a Trench or Confined Space emergency.

SECTION 2

The Hazardous Materials Team will be activated by:

- The Communications Center upon the receipt of a Hazmat Level II
- Upon the request of a company or chief officer

- Upon the request of the Incident Commander at incidents involving hazardous material(s)

SECTION 3

The standard Hazardous Materials Level II response will be:

- Two Paramedic Engine Companies
- One Battalion Chief
- One Hazmat Two
- One Ambulance
- One Police Officer
- Duty Officer

Note: The Incident Commander will be responsible for notifying the Hazardous Materials Team Commander and the Fire Chief.

SECTION 4

The procedure for off-duty Hazardous Materials Team activation will be:

- The Battalion Chief or Fire Chief must authorize the activation of the off-duty Hazardous Materials Team.
- Communications will activate the Hazardous Materials Team by **Fire “All Call”** and will include the following alarm information:
 - Address
 - Type of Alarm
 - Staging Area
 - Name of Command
- After three minutes of the initial alarm, Communications will send out another message via **Fire “All Call”** and re-announce the Hazmat alarm.

SECTION 5

The response of the Hazmat Unit and Hazardous Materials Team will be as follows:

- On-duty Hazardous Materials Team members at Station 2 will respond on Hazmat 2.
- The Battalion Chief will make arrangements for on-duty Hazardous Materials Team members not at Station 2 to respond to the incident.
- If there are no on-duty Hazardous Materials Team members available, one fire fighter will be assigned to drive the Hazmat Unit to the incident.
Note: Hazardous Material chemical protective clothing and other specialized equipment shall be used by Hazardous Materials Team members only.
- When notified, off-duty Hazardous Materials Team members shall respond to the incident staging area and report to the Staging Officer. Reporting members must report with their structural firefighting gear.
- The Incident Commander shall designate and announce to Communications the staging area in the “Cold Zone” as soon as possible.

Communications will re-announce the incident staging area for the off-duty responding Hazardous Materials Team members. This information will be included in the activation (call back) page.

SECTION 6

If the Hazardous Materials Team is cancelled, Communications will activate the Hazardous Materials Team group page and inform them to cancel response. This will be repeated after three minutes.

(Signature on File)

Larry H. Williams, Jr.

Fire Chief

DOTHAN FIRE DEPARTMENT