

Hazardous Materials, SOG 208

PERSONNEL SAFETY

1. Scope. This standard establishes guidelines for members to follow when engaged in an incident involving a hazardous material. It was promulgated so as to minimize the risk of death and injury during haz-mat incidents.
2. General.
 - A. The most important action to be taken at a hazardous materials incident is to recognize that a hazardous material is present. If the potential exists, assume the worst until it can be confirmed that no danger exists.
 - B. The area must be secured and no one must be allowed to enter the area until the incident commander determines that it is safe to do so.
 - C. Appropriate help should be summoned and the material or materials present should be identified.
 - D. Once the problem has been identified, the incident commander should formulate an action plan to resolve the incident. Tactical surveys will be useful in this process. The action plan should focus on three goals:
 - (1) Life safety.
 - (2) Environmental protection.
 - (3) Property conservation.
 - E. The incident commander should appoint a safety officer early in this process. The safety officer must remain in constant contact with the Incident Commander ("IC") and should immediately correct any unsafe conditions or practices.
3. Operations.
 - A. There are three recognized levels of response:
 - (1) Level I: The least serious and within the capabilities of the department. Evacuation, if required, will be limited to the immediate area. Example: a gasoline or diesel spill.

- (2) Level II: Beyond the capabilities of the department, a Level II incident requires the service of a formal Haz Mat Response Team. Examples: the rupture of a pipeline or a fire with the threat of a BLEVE.
 - (3) Level III: The most serious type, requiring special resources from public and private agencies. It will require a large-scale evacuation and implementation of the jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Plan (see Attachment 1). Example: an incident that extends across jurisdictional boundaries.
- B. Operations will either be defensive or offensive.
- (1) Defensive operations focus on confinement without directly contacting the hazardous materials creating the problem.
 - (2) Offensive operations focus on aggressive actions on the material, container, or process, and they may result in contact with the materials. Offensive operation will not be conducted unless the incident commander can determine that the risk is worth the benefit.
- C. Personnel will not be allowed to enter the warm zone or the hot zone without the proper level of training and personal protection.
- D. Personnel will not be permitted to leave the warm zone or the hot zone without undergoing proper decontamination.
- E. The safety officer will appoint a medical surveillance team. The team will be responsible for monitoring members for indicators of toxic exposure effects, including:
- (1) Change in complexion, skin discoloration.
 - (2) Lack of coordination.
 - (3) Changes of demeanor.
 - (4) Excessive salivation, papillary response.
 - (5) Changes in speech pattern.
 - (6) Headaches.

- (7) Dizziness.
 - (8) Blurred vision.
 - (9) Cramps.
 - (10) Irritation of eyes, skin, or respiratory tract.
- F. Any member exposed to a hazardous material shall complete a Hazardous Materials Exposure Form. (See Attachment 4.) A copy of the form shall be placed in the member's medical file.
- G. The incident commander shall also appoint a rehab officer. The rehab officer shall establish a rehab sector. Members shall be rotated through the rehab sector in accordance with SOG 245 - Rehabilitation.