

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

DATE APPROVED:

I. Scope

This standard establishes guidelines to be followed during the management of a hazardous material incident, and provides for the safety of response personnel.

II. Definitions

The following definitions are taken from a variety of sources including NFPA 472, *Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents*.

- A. **Cold zone**: The zone of a hazardous materials incident that contains the command post and such other support functions as are deemed necessary to control the incident.
- B. **Confinement**: Those procedures taken to keep a material in a defined or local area once released.
- C. **Containment**: The actions taken to keep a material in its container (stop the release of the material or reduce the amount being released.)
- D. **Contaminant**: A hazardous material that physically remains on or in people, animals, the environment, or equipment, thereby creating a continuing risk of direct injury or a risk of exposure outside of the hot zone.
- E. **Decontamination**: The physical or chemical process of reducing and preventing the spread of contamination from persons and equipment used at a hazardous materials incident.
- F. **Exposure**: The process by which people, animals, the environment, and equipment are subjected to or come in contact with a hazardous material.
- G. **Hazardous material**: A substance that when released is capable of creating harm to people, the environment, animals, and property.
- H. **Hot zone**: The area immediately surrounding a hazardous materials incident. It extends far enough to where adverse effects from hazardous materials release will not be expected.
- I. **Penetration**: The movement of a material through a suit's closures such as zippers, buttonholes, seams, flaps, or other design features of chemical protective clothing-and through punctures, cuts, and tears.
- J. **Stabilization**: The point in an incident at which the adverse behavior of the hazardous material is controlled.
- K. **Warm zone**: The control zone at a hazardous materials incident where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support takes place. It includes control points for the access corridor, helping to reduce the spread of contamination. This zone is also referred to as the decontamination, contamination reduction, or limited access zone.

III. General

- A. The first-arriving officer at an incident involving hazardous materials shall report the following information to Dispatch:
 - 1. The exact location of the incident.
 - 2. The type and quantity of the materials involved, if known.
 - 3. The extent of damage and the number and types of injuries.
 - 4. Any other pertinent information such as the hazardous material entering the storm drain, waterway, or sewer system.
 - 5. Notify Virginia Emergency Operations Center.
- B. The first-arriving officer shall also request any additional resources that may be needed, establish command, and begin securing the incident scene to prevent additional injuries or contamination.
- C. The area shall be evacuated if necessary. This function can be turned over to the police once sufficient law enforcement resources arrive on the scene.
- D. The county emergency management coordinator shall provide the incident commander with the temperature, wind speed and direction, and humidity as soon as it is possible to do so.

IV Tactical Objectives

- A. The incident commander shall assess the situation and identify the products involved prior to committing personnel.
- B. If entry must be made into the hot zone to rescue someone or to contain a release, the appropriate level of protective clothing shall be worn by the personnel who enter.
- C. If personnel are committed to the hot zone, decontamination and rehab sectors shall be established, as well as a warm zone and a cold zone.
- D. Decontamination of victims shall also occur prior to their being transported to a medical facility.
- E. Additional resources shall be requested in accordance with the county Emergency Operations Plan. This includes the dispatch of additional resources if the incident exceeds the department's capabilities.
- F. The incident commander's objectives will be containment and stabilization. Final cleanup of incidents that exceed the capabilities of the department will be the responsibility of the private vendor who responds to the incident.