

# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

## HazMat Response



**Department:** Operations

SOP#125

**Applicable to:** All Staff

**Effective Date:** 1 Dec 2020

3 Pages

**Authority:** Chief Dean

**Applicable CAAS Standard:**

**Revised Effective Date:**

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### Purpose:

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) is to outline the position of Brighton Volunteer Ambulance (Agency) regarding responses to Hazardous Materials calls.

### Scope:

The scope of this document applies to all road staff operating in the presence of hazardous materials.

### Guideline:

1. Definition
  - a. A hazardous materials incident is one in which any material whether it is a liquid, vapor, or solid, escapes its intended containment and presents the potential for serious injury or harm to persons and/or the environment. The following procedures have been established as a guide for all to use in such incidents to ensure that each incident is responded to in a timely manner, with adequate resources to provide for proper control, and to ensure safe operations for mitigation of the incident.
2. Hazardous Materials Classifications Any incident suspected of/or involving any material in the following hazard classes will be established as a hazardous material incident.
  - a. Flammable Liquids (inside a structure)
  - b. Flammable Solids
  - c. Radioactive Materials
  - d. Organic Peroxides
  - e. Cryogenics
  - f. Poisons (gasses, liquids, or solids)
  - g. Flammable Gas
  - h. Non-Flammable Gas
  - i. Oxidizers
  - j. Corrosives/Acids or caustics
  - k. Biological Agents
  - l. Environmentally Hazardous Substances (DOT Class 9 Materials)
  - m. All Flammable or Combustible Liquids - over 20 gallons in an outside area.
3. Responsibility
  - a. Agency personnel will fulfill only scene support at the Awareness level for Hazmat incidents. As Agency units and personnel may be the first to arrive, initial scene size-up is critical. While the Monroe County Hazmat Team is ultimately responsible for

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mitigation of an incident, personnel may utilize and support the following, so long as efforts do not place Agency personnel in a area of danger.

#### 4. Response Guidelines

- a. Hazardous materials emergencies can pose a great threat to both the public and emergency responders. Following basic safety procedures can assist the emergency responders in ensuring the safety of those involved in these incidents. Since it is impossible to eliminate all risks associated with the release of a hazardous material there must be an effective emergency response procedure in place. The response activities should be based upon information received and the type of hazardous material released.
- b. The initial action of the first responding unit is critical to ensure a positive outcome of the incident. They must establish control of the incident scene and isolate the public from the problem.
- c. Information to be gathered initially: (Only to be completed by Agency personnel if able to do so safely)
  - i. Obtain wind speed and direction.
  - ii. Request the name of the hazardous material involved, if possible.
  - iii. Determine the physical state of the material (Gas, Solid, Liquid)
  - iv. Is there a vapor cloud present, and is it moving.
  - v. Plan your approach to the incident - Upwind, Uphill, Upstream.
- d. Scene Arrival Actions: (Only to be completed by Agency personnel if able to do so safely)
  - i. Avoid committing to a dangerous situation without considering options. Take a defensive role initially by utilizing basic hazardous materials awareness techniques: establishing control zones, notification of additional resources, and denying entry to the area.
  - ii. Initiate the Incident Command System with a strong and possibly unified command presence.
  - iii. The command post should be established a safe distance from the incident in the cold zone.
  - iv. Staging should be considered for large amounts of resources. Formal staging requires a Staging Area Sector, usually the company officer from the first arriving unit in staging.
  - v. Personnel accountability should be initiated by collecting passport identification cards and managing them at the command post.
  - vi. The problem should be confirmed and identified. Do not assume that the dispatch information was necessarily correct.
  - vii. Identify the involved material, or materials.

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- viii. Obtain information from the involved party.
  - ix. Locate the shipping papers, SDS sheets, label, or placard.
  - x. Notate the container's shape, size, and damage extent, if possible.
  - xi. Isolate the area by establishing the Initial Safe Zone.
    1. Use barrier tape, ropes, or natural barriers to keep people out.
  - xii. Establish a separate holding area for contaminated civilians and response personnel.
- e. Medical Group Safety Officer: (Fulfill as capable until relieved)
- i. Required for all Haz-Mat incidents (OSHA 1910.120q).
  - ii. Shall report directly to the Incident Commander.
  - iii. Has the authority to suspend, alter, or change any operation when deemed necessary to protect the safety of any responder.
  - iv. Shall be responsible for ensuring:
    1. The Site Safety Plan has been developed and implemented.
    2. The protection of all entry personnel from physical, chemical, and/or environmental hazards and exposure.
    3. Identify and monitor all personnel operating within the Hot Zone.
    4. That EMS personnel and/or units are provided.
    5. That the Health exposure logs and records are maintained.
    6. That the Personnel Accountability System is in place
5. Hazardous Material Calls are meant to be handled by the HazMat Team. EMS is a supporting element. If at any point there is concern, break contact, get up hill and up wind, and call in additional, proper resources. If you aren't sure, follow this.

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