



Springdale Fire Department Policies & Procedures

Policy Title: Hazardous Materials

Volume: 5 – Fire Operations

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CFAI Reference: 8E.1

Revision Summary: Created- January 12, 2008

Formatted- May 2, 2014

Policy Number: 502.4

Section: 502 – Technical Operations

Last Updated: May 2, 2014

CAAS Reference: n/a

This plan provides a basic philosophy and strategic plan for hazardous materials situations. All Springdale Fire Department policies and procedures, unless superseded by a specific part of this plan, remain in effect for hazardous materials incidents.

Hazardous materials incidents encompass a wide variety of situations including fires, spills, transportation accidents, chemical reactions, explosions, and similar events. Hazards involved may include toxicity, flammability, radioactivity, corrosives, explosives, health hazards, chemical reactions, and combinations of factors. This plan provides a general framework for handling a hazardous materials incident, but does not address the specific tactics or control measures for particular incidents.

Every incident presents the potential for exposure to hazardous materials and the products of combustion of an ordinary fire may present severe hazards to personnel safety.

Adequate situation evaluation is critical. If the wrong decision is made, personnel can easily become part of the problem instead of part of the solution. Any emergency response effort must favorably change or influence the outcome. If the outcome cannot be favorably changed, personnel must withdraw, evacuate endangered civilians, and protect exposures if possible.

This procedure is specifically applicable to known hazardous materials incidents, but it does not reduce the need for appropriate safety precautions at every incident. The use of full protective clothing and SCBA whenever appropriate and the utilization of all Springdale Fire Department policies and procedures on a continuing basis is the starting point for this plan.

INITIAL DISPATCH

Haz-Mat incidents will receive a "Special Alarm" consisting of a Standard Alarm with the addition of Engine 3 and Haz-Mat 1.

The first arriving apparatus will respond "Code 3". All other units will respond "Code 1".

Springdale dispatch will attempt to obtain any and all information from the person reporting a hazardous materials incident. The information should, if possible, include material name and/or type, amount and size of container(s), problem (leak, spill, fire, etc.), and dangerous properties of the materials..

FIRST ARRIVING UNIT

The first arriving officer will establish Command, begin size-up and use the DOT guidebook to establish initial isolation distances. The first unit must consciously avoid committing itself to a dangerous situation. When approaching, slow down or stop to assess any visible activity taking place. Evaluate effects of wind, topography, and location of the situation.

Command will establish level II staging for other responding units. Staged companies must be in a safe location taking into account wind, spill flow, explosion potential, and similar factors in any situation. Units must stage in a safe location taking into account wind, spill flow, explosion potential, and similar factors in any situation.

SIZE-UP

Command must make a careful size-up before deciding on a commitment. It may be necessary to take immediate action to make a rescue or evacuate an area, but this should be done with an awareness of the risk to Fire Department personnel and taking advantage of available protective equipment.

The objective of the size-up is to identify the nature and severity of the immediate problem and gather sufficient information to formulate a valid action plan. A hazardous materials incident requires a cautious and deliberate size-up.

Command must avoid premature commitment of companies and personnel to potentially hazardous locations. Proceed with caution in evaluating risks before formulating a plan and keep uncommitted companies at a safe distance. In many cases, evaluation by the Springdale Haz-Mat response company before committing is the safest approach.

Command must identify a hazardous area based on potential danger, taking into account materials involved, time of day, wind and weather conditions, location of the incident, and degree of risk to unprotected personnel. Take immediate action to evacuate and/or rescue persons in critical danger if possible, providing for the safety of the rescuers first.

The major problem in most cases is to identify the type of materials involved in a situation and the hazards presented before formulating a plan of action. Look for labels, markers, DOT identification numbers, NFPA diamond, and shipping papers, refer to pre-fire plans and ask personnel at the scene (plant management, responsible party, truck drivers, etc.). Utilize reference materials carried on apparatus and other sources for assistance in sizing-up the problem.

Command will determine whether the incident will require mutual aid from other NWA Fire Departments.

ACTION PLAN

Based on the initial size-up and any information available, Command will formulate an action plan to deal with the situation.

Most hazardous materials are intended to be maintained in a safe condition for handling and use through confinement in a container or protective system. The emergency is usually related to the

material escaping from the protective container or system and creating a hazard on the exterior. The strategic plan must include a method to control the flow or release, get the hazardous material back into a safe container, neutralize it, allow it to dissipate safely, or coordinate proper disposal.

The specific action plan must identify the method of hazard control and identify the resources available and/or required to accomplish this goal. It may be necessary to select one method over another due to the unavailability of a particular resource or to adopt a "holding action" to wait for needed expertise, equipment, or supplies.

As a general policy, the Springdale Hazmat response company and/or Hazmat technicians will be assigned to any situation involving direct contact with hazardous materials.

At all incidents involving hazardous materials, a Safety Officer will be established. The Safety Officer will monitor all activities to ensure that procedures are conducted in a safe manner. The Safety Officer will intervene and stop any operation that is being performed in an unsafe manner. Upon intervening into any operation, the Safety Officer will advise Command of the situation.

The action plan must provide for:

- An assigned Safety Officer.
- Safety of citizens.
- Safety of firefighters.
- Evacuation of endangered area if necessary, or sheltering in place if practical.
- Control of situation.
- Stabilization of hazardous materials, and or disposal or removal of hazardous material.

Avoid committing personnel and equipment prematurely or "experimenting" with techniques and tactics. Many times it is necessary to evacuate and wait for special equipment or specialty help.

CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS AREA

A hazardous materials incident has three zones associated with the scene. There is the Hot Zone, Warm Zone, and the Cold Zone.

HOT ZONE

Hot Zone (Exclusion): Area(s) where the highest risks to personnel safety exist. The hot zone may be defined initially as the perimeter of the closest apparatus to the incident. The hot zone is also defined through the use of red hazard barrier tape.

All personnel operating in the Hot Zone must wear PPE appropriate to the hazard and be certified to operate at the technician level (if applicable) for the particular hazard type.

Operations conducted in the hot zone should be performed with two person crews as a minimum. Red hazard barrier tape shall never be crossed without direct consent of the incident commander, operations officer, or incident safety officer.

Responsibility for control of personnel in this zone includes not only Fire Department personnel, but any others who may wish to enter the Hot Zone (police, press, employees,

tow truck drivers, ambulance personnel, etc.). COMMAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY.

WARM ZONE

Warm Zone (Hazard Reduction): Area(s) where limited risks to personnel safety are present. The warm zone is defined as the area between the hot zone and the cold zone. The warm zone is where activities such as, decontamination, and equipment/tool staging are typically located.

All personnel operating in the Warm Zone must wear PPE appropriate to the hazard and be certified to operate at the operations level (if applicable) for the particular hazard type.

In some cases, it is necessary to completely evacuate a radius around a site for a certain distance (i.e., potential explosion).

In other cases, it may be advisable to evacuate a path downwind where toxic or flammable vapors may be carried (and control ignition sources in case of flammable vapors).

NOTE: When toxic or irritant vapors are being carried downwind, it may be most effective to keep everyone indoors with windows and doors closed (sheltering in place) to prevent contact with the material instead of evacuating the area. In these cases, companies would be assigned to patrol the area assisting citizens in shutting down ventilation systems and evacuating persons with susceptibility to respiratory problems.

COLD ZONE

Cold Zone (Support): Area(s) where minimal or no personnel risks are identified. The cold zone is defined as the area between the warm zone and the incident scene perimeter. The outer boundary of the cold zone (incident perimeter) may be identified through the use of yellow fire line barrier tape.

The cold zone is where incident support activities such as the Command Post, Rehabilitation, and Personnel staging are located.

USE OF NON-FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

In some cases, it may be advantageous to use non-Fire Department personnel to evaluate hazards and perform certain functions for which they would have particular experience or ability.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS for HAZ-MAT

All Fire Department personnel will be expected to perform at their level of training. The minimum level of training is Operations Level as defined by local, state, and federal regulations. This level allows personnel to perform defensive level actions such as damming, diking and diverting the flow of a hydrocarbon liquid. The operations level allows personnel to stop the flow of product using valves that are outside of the Hot Zone and remote to the leak.

Company Officers are expected to recognize situations that involve hazardous materials if they arrive on scene and dispatch did not notify them of the presence of those materials.

Incident commanders should request the Springdale Haz-Mat Team if they determine that the amount of product involved is more than 55 gallons. Single unit responses should be able to handle spills that are typically found in motor vehicle accidents and liquid quantities in a normal passenger car.

An example of an incident that the Haz-Mat Team should be called on is if a saddle tank on a tractor trailer is leaking and the possibility exists to transfer it to another tank.

Large Natural Gas or Propane leaks could require the Haz-Mat Team to respond and assist with monitoring of flammable atmospheres.

The level of P.P.E. will be set by the Incident Commander and Safety Officer with input from the Haz-Mat Team research personnel.

The Haz-Mat Team should respond to Technical Rescue incidents such as Confined Space and Trench Rescues where atmospheric monitoring will be needed.