


Title:	Hazardous Materials Incidents (major)			
Section:	600 Special Operations			
SOG #:	610	Page:	1 of 3	
Effective Date:	January 1, 2024	Revision Date: Reviewed		
Authorized By:	Fox River Fire District Chiefs			

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide direction when responding to and determining a course of action when dispatched to larger hazardous material incidents that require the response of multiple agencies.

B. SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to responses to hazardous material and unknown substance incidents.

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

ERG - Emergency Response Guidebook.

MABAS – Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

WISER – Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders

NIMS – National Incident Management System

WDNR – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

D. GUIDELINE

The Department functions at the Operations level. At the Operations level, we possess the knowledge necessary to protect the public from harm due to exposure to hazardous materials. An incident involving hazardous materials can pose a significant risk to the public and responding personnel. While all effort shall be made to protect the public, responders must NOT rush into the incident. Many hazardous materials incidents require the assistance, involvement, and response of other agencies. Mitigating the incident can take an extended period of time. All actions shall be based on informed decisions by qualified individuals.

Examples of activities and functions appropriate at the Operations level include:

- Recognition of a hazardous materials incident
- Recognition of hazards associated
- Identifying resource needs
- Initiating the response of the appropriate level response teams
- Establishing scene control and incident management

1) Site Management

- a. Approach from a safe direction if possible.
- b. Establish an isolation perimeter. Deny admittance to the area.
- c. Establish Command following NIMS and coordinate with other responding agencies.
- d. Consider upgrading the alarm. Hazardous materials incidents require many personnel to effectively control the perimeter and manage the incident. MABAS Card-should be followed.
- e. All units shall stage a safe distance away from the incident in accordance with the ERG recommendations and current conditions.
- f. Command shall assign an Incident Safety Officer and a Data Resource person. These personnel shall gather information on the chemicals involved, containers, and environmental conditions. They will make recommendations on establishing safe work areas and the safe handling of the material and the incident. Various sources can be used to gather this information, including, but not limited to, the ERG, WISER, Safety Data Sheets, Shipping Papers, CHEMTREC, and on-site knowledgeable personnel. Complete the Hazardous Materials Data form.
- g. Evacuate as needed if it can be done in a safe manner. In some situations, protecting-in-place may be the most viable option.
- h. All persons who have been exposed to the material(s) shall be moved to a location where they are isolated from others, and the incident, so that they may be evaluated and decontaminated as needed.
- i. Notify the WDNR and the-Health Dept.
- j. Attempt to contact any company representatives and/or responsible parties.

2) Incident Actions

- a. Follow the Hazardous Materials Incident Operations Guide.
- b. Establish hot, warm, and cold operational zones.
- c. Ensure that all personnel operating in the control zones are wearing the appropriate personnel protective clothing and equipment.
- d. Ensure that unauthorized/untrained personnel do not enter these hazard zones.
- e. All incident actions, unless performed by properly trained and equipped teams, shall not exceed the scope of the hazardous materials Operations level.
- f. An Incident Action Plan shall be created that identifies exposures, hazards, and incident objectives. Complete ICS 208 HM, Site Safety and Control Plan.
- g. Remove all ignition sources if materials are combustible or flammable in nature.
- h. Use foam to extinguish fires or to suppress vapors if it can be done safely.

- i. Dike and/or dam areas to contain run-off and prevent further contamination of other areas and water sources.

3) Decontamination and Clean-up

- a. Perform emergency decontamination of sick or injured victims.
- b. Ensure proper decontamination of all personnel before they leave the scene.
- c. All equipment in contact with hazardous material(s) shall be properly disposed of or decontaminated prior to returning to service.
- d. Clean-up of hazardous materials is the sole responsibility of the person or company responsible for the hazardous material(s) incident.
- e. Coordinate with cleanup/recovery team.

4) Reports and Documentation

- a. Wisconsin Statute 292.11 any person who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance has the legal obligation to report the spill to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).
- b. For spills in public places or of a larger nature report the spill to the WDNR (1-800-943-0003).
- c. Reporting information for the WDNR.
 - i. Your name, address, and location of the discharge
 - ii. Physical state, quantity, and chemical characteristics of the discharged substance.
 - iii. Cause of the discharge
 - iv. Destination of the discharged substance.
 - v. Actions taken to stop the release and minimize the impact on the environment.
 - vi. Actual or potential impacts to human health or the environment.
- d. The Incident Action Plan, Data Resource sheet, Responsible Party Information form, and a record of all operations and the personnel who performed them shall be documented.
- e. A written report shall be completed by the Incident Commander and filed with all the above documents included.
- f. A log of all department personnel who were exposed or potentially exposed shall be maintained during the incident and filed along with the incident report.
- g. A record of all other agencies and their responding personnel shall be documented and filed with the incident report.
- h. A record of all items used that will need to be replaced and any other expenses incurred shall be kept during the incident and filed with the incident report.

- i. All personnel will be debriefed after the incident. This debriefing shall include the identity of the hazardous material involved, exposure symptoms, and assigning a point of contact for incident related issues.

-END-