



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in the decision making processes concerning the deployment of apparatus, equipment, and personnel in the event of a hazardous materials response. The Russellville Fire Department shall operate at the technician level. This plan provides a general framework for handling a hazardous materials incident.

Initial Incident Commanders shall be able to recognize conditions requiring the enactment of this policy, and be familiar with its tactical framework. All personnel shall be familiar with this policy with regard to their individual roles on the emergency scene.

POLICY

Definition and Scope

Hazardous Materials Incidents are defined for the purposes of this policy as any chemical leak or spill; or potential chemical leak, or spill. Hazardous Materials Incidents are also defined as any fire involving chemicals not generally encountered in structure fires.

Training

All personnel responding to hazardous materials incidents shall have received training before responding or operating on the hazardous material incident. Training shall meet the competencies described in OSHA 1910.120 and NFPA 492. Training falls into the following categories:

Hazardous Materials Awareness – Awareness level trained personal may respond to hazardous material incident however they may not take any direct effort to enter, confine or control the spill or leak. All Department personnel shall receive this training.

Hazardous Materials Operations – Operations level trained personnel may take efforts to confine or control the spill or leak as long as those actions to not require any direct contact with the hazardous material. All fire department personnel will be trained to Operations level at a minimum

Hazardous Materials Technician – Technician level personnel may directly enter the spill or leak area to take those actions they deem reasonable and appropriate. Before entry, they shall act to assure their safety and the safety of others.

Hazardous Material Incident Commander – Incident Commanders are trained to the Hazardous Materials Technician level and have additional training in incident command.

Hazardous Materials Response Assignments

Initial Hazardous Materials Assignment

Approved

Fire Chief



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

Upon receiving a report of a potential hazardous material incident, the 911 Center shall immediately initiate an initial hazardous materials response.

An initial hazardous materials response within the city of Russellville shall consist of:

- Closest Engine Company
- Battalion 1

Confirmed Hazardous Materials Assignment

A confirmed hazardous materials incident within the city of Russellville shall consist of:

- 2 Closest Engine Companies
- Battalion 1
- Hazmat 1

A hazardous materials response within Pope County but outside the city of Russellville shall consist of:

- Battalion 1
- Hazmat 1
- A minimum of six Hazmat Technicians

A hazardous materials response outside Pope County shall consist of:

- Hazmat 1 with two Hazmat Technicians

Scope of Operations:

- The Russellville Fire Department will assume the lead role in any hazardous materials incident within the City of Russellville.
- The Russellville Fire Department will respond along with local responders within Pope County as part of a unified command.
- The Russellville Fire Department will respond with a command post in an advisory role outside Pope County as set forth in agreements with the Pope County Office of Emergency Management and the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

Components of a confirmed hazardous materials incident will include:

- Notification of Pope County OEM
- One or more EMS units
- Notification of law enforcement agencies for assistance with traffic, crowd control, and evacuation if necessary
- Other units as requested by the Incident Commander

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Fire Chief

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RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
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- All requests for special resources outside the City of Russellville will be made through the Pope County Office of Emergency Management.
- Command must be a Hazmat Technician and will assume the role of Safety Officer until such time that circumstances allow the designation of a dedicated Safety Officer.
- All operations will be limited by level of training and on scene resources. If an incident falls outside of our scope of training or available resources, the incident commander will coordinate with Pope County OEM for additional resources.
- The Fire Chief or Mayor will be notified of any Hazardous Materials response outside the city of Russellville.

Response

Units responding to an incident that has been reported to involve hazardous materials will approach the scene with extreme caution. The number of personnel on board any unit (including the driver), shall not exceed the number of SCBA's on the unit.

First arriving Officer shall give a size up to better inform other responding units of the situation.

The units will stop at least 300 feet from the incident, or per DOT book if additional information is known. They are to be:

1. Upwind, units may need to move 1,000 feet from the incident if caught downwind from the hazard.
2. Uphill, units may need to re-approach for safe positioning.
3. Backed into position, in case of sudden wind shift or deterioration of the incident, so as to allow rapid egress from the scene.

Size-Up

1. Perform size-up from the farthest possible location. At least 300 feet upwind and uphill.
2. Careful size-up before making a commitment.
3. Be aware of risk to personnel and public.
4. Identify nature and severity of problem.
5. Identify the type of materials involved.
6. Be cautious.
7. Avoid premature commitment of personnel.
8. Take immediate action to evacuate and/or rescue persons in critical danger, if possible, providing for safety of rescuers.
9. Utilize reference materials carried on apparatus and have dispatcher contact other sources for assistance in sizing up the problem (Chemtrec, other agencies, fire department specialists, manufacturers of materials, etc.).
10. Attempt to obtain shipping papers, and as much information as possible.

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Command Post

A command post shall be established and its location reported to dispatch. The Incident Commander shall appoint a Safety Officer from available personnel. The Safety Officer should be one of the most qualified hazardous material responders.

The Incident Commander may request additional hazardous material response personnel from civilian contractors or specialized hazmat response teams.

Action Plan

1. The strategic plan must include a method to get the hazardous material back into a safe container, dispose of it, neutralize it, or allow it to dissipate safely.
2. Identify the method of hazard control and identify the resources available and/or required to accomplish this goal.
3. It may be necessary to select one method over another due to the unavailability of a particular resource or to adopt a "holding action" and wait for needed equipment or supplies.

The Action Plan Must Provide For:

1. Safety of citizens
2. Safety of Firefighters
3. Evacuation of endangered area, if necessary
4. Control of situation
5. Stabilization of hazardous materials, and/or
6. Disposal or removal of hazardous material

It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to establish a safety zone and evacuate the area immediately of all persons (including fire-rescue personnel) not equipped with full protective gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). A Safety Zone should be established according to recommendations of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guidebook or similar guide. If the material is not known, a 1,000-foot perimeter should be established. Zones are as follows:

1. Hot Zone - Requires Full Protective Equipment appropriate to the material for entry.
2. Warm Zone - Decontamination area; requires protective equipment for entry.
3. Cold Zone - Staging and command area. No special equipment required.

Control of Hazardous Area

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.

A hazardous material incident has two zones associated with the scene, similar to a fire. There are the HAZARD ZONE and the EVACUATION ZONE.

Hazard Zone

The Hazard Zone is the area in which personnel are potentially in immediate danger from the hazardous condition. This is established by Command and controlled by the Fire Department. Access to this area will be rigidly controlled and only personnel with proper protective equipment and an assigned activity will enter. All personnel and equipment will remain in designated staging areas until assigned. Personnel will be assigned to monitor entry and exit of all personnel from the Hazard Zone.

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The Hazard Zone should be geographically described to all responding units, if possible. (A Sector may be established to control access to the Hazard Zone and maintain an awareness of which personnel are working in the area.)

Evacuation Zone

The Evacuation Zone is the larger area surrounding the Hazard Zone in which a lesser degree of risk to personnel exists. All civilians would be removed from this area. The limits of this zone will be enforced by the law enforcement agency in charge based on distances and directions established in consultation with Command. The area to be evacuated depends on the nature and amount of the material and type of risk it presents to unprotected personnel (toxic, explosive, etc.). 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 more effective to keep everyone indoors with windows and doors closed 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. In all cases, the responsibility for safety of all potentially endangered citizens rests with Command.

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. When such personnel are outfitted with breathing apparatus, etc., they must be made aware of the functions, limitations and safety precautions necessary in their use. Fire Department personnel with the necessary protective equipment must closely monitor and/or accompany such personnel for safety.

NOTE: Be aware that command is responsible for the safety of all personnel involved in any incident.

Tactics

Incident intervention- Prior to initiating any action by his crew, the unit officer should consider whether the intervention will affect the following:

1. Fatalities - Crew, patients, or by-standers
2. Injuries - Crew, patients, or by-standers
3. Property Loss - Including apparatus
4. System disruption - Closed road way, or utilities
5. Environmental Damage - Stream run-off, down wind and downhill

The unit commander shall expose the minimum number of personnel necessary to rescue victims and secure the incident.

The Incident commander shall be responsible for coordinating police assistance for crowd and traffic control.

Assessment

The Incident commander is responsible for the ongoing assessment of the operational plan and having the quality of delivery of patient care and extrication monitored. The tactics and personnel are to be changed as necessary.

Post Incident Analysis

All involved companies shall meet at the earliest appropriate time to reinforce the positive aspects of the incident and to constructively review the negative aspects.

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