

I. Scope

This standard establishes guidelines for members to follow when engaged in an incident involving a hazardous material. It was established so as to minimize the risk of death and injury during haz-mat incidents.

II. General

- A. The most important action to be taken at a hazardous materials incident is to recognize that a hazardous material is present. If the potential exists, assume the worst until it can be confirmed that danger no longer exists.
- B. The area must be secured and no one must be allowed to enter the area until the incident commander determines that it is safe to do so.
- C. Appropriate help should be summoned and the material or materials present should be identified.
- D. Once the problem has been identified, the incident commander should formulate an action plan to resolve the incident. The action plan should focus on three goals:
 1. Life safety.
 2. Environmental protection.
 3. Property conservation.
- E. The incident commander should appoint a safety officer early in this process. The safety officer must remain in constant contact with the IC and should immediately correct any unsafe conditions or practices.

III. Operations

- A. There are three levels of response:
 1. Level 1: the least serious and within the capabilities of Hiawatha Fire and Rescue. Evacuation, if required, will be limited to the immediate area. Example: a gasoline or diesel spill. These incidents pose a threat to only the environment or property. There is no threat to Hiawatha Fire and Rescue personnel.
 2. Level 2: Beyond the capabilities of the department, a Level 2 incident requires the service of a formal HazMat Response Team. Examples: the rupture of a pipeline or a fire with the threat of BLEVE. These incidents pose a risk to Hiawatha Fire and Rescue personnel.
 3. Level 3: The most serious type, requiring special resources from public and private agencies. It will require a large – scale evacuation and implementation of the Emergency Management Evacuation Plan. Example: an incident that extends across jurisdictional boundaries.

Hiawatha Fire & Rescue

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Hazardous Materials
Personnel Safety at Hazardous Materials Incidents
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- B. Operations will either be defensive or offensive.
 - 1. Defensive operations focus on confinement without directly contacting the hazardous materials creating the problem.
 - 2. Offensive operations focus on aggressive actions on the material. Container, or process, and they may result in contact with the materials. Offensive operations will not be conducted unless the incident commander can determine that the risk is worth the benefit.
- C. Personnel will not be allowed to enter the warm zone or hot zone without the proper level of training and personal protection.
- D. Personnel will not be allowed to leave the warm zone or hot zone without undergoing proper decontamination.
- E. The safety officer will appoint a medical surveillance team. The team will be responsible for monitoring Hiawatha Fire and Rescue members for indicators of toxic exposure effects, including:
 - 1. Change in complexion, skin discoloration.
 - 2. Lack of coordination.
 - 3. Changes of demeanor.
 - 4. Excessive salivation, papillary response.
 - 5. Changes in speech pattern.
 - 6. Headaches.
 - 7. Dizziness
 - 8. Blurred vision.
 - 9. Cramps.
 - 10. Irritation of eyes, skin, or respiratory tract.
 - 11. Vital signs
- F. The incident commander shall also appoint a rehab officer. The rehab officer shall establish a rehab sector. Members shall be rotated through the rehab sector.