


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MELROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT | | Department Manual: Policy No. 7.09 |
| Subject: Hazardous Material (HazMat) | | |
| • MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: 46.3.4 | | GENERAL ORDER |
| Effective Date: March 5, 2024 | Issuing Authority <i>Kevin Faller</i> Kevin Faller Chief of Police |  |

1. PURPOSE:

- a. A Hazardous Materials Incident can occur anywhere, ranging from a chemical spill on the highway to an industrial accident to groundwater contamination by naturally occurring methane gas. Hazardous materials are substances that, because of their chemical nature, pose a potential risk to life, health, and property if they are released. These hazards can exist during production, storage, transportation, use or disposal. Massachusetts experiences thousands of HazMat incidents annually. The **vast** majority are small in nature and quickly, easily, and safely contained. Most communities in Massachusetts have Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) or are members of a Regional LEPC that can identify industrial hazardous materials and help keep communities informed of the potential risk. In Melrose, this falls under the responsibility of the Fire Department.

2. POLICY:

- a. It shall be a priority of the Melrose Police Department to safely and effectively plan for, respond to, and recover from a hazardous material incident. The primary objectives at any such incident are to protect the lives of civilians and first responders, contain or limit the proliferation of any hazardous material, identification of any chemical agent, preservation and maintenance of any crime scene and collection of evidence when appropriate.

- b. The Department will assist in evacuation notifications, siren activations, reverse 911 calls, route alerting, shelter security, and criminal investigations should the event be linked with a criminal act or motor vehicle crash, etc.

3. PROCEDURE:

a. Situation

- i. A release or threatened release of hazardous material could result in serious and quickly escalating threats to the public. The physical or chemical characteristics of hazardous materials may include toxicity, flammability, or reactivity. These factors require technical analysis by qualified and approved specialists in order to determine existing hazards, the anticipated course of the incident and any new hazards if things go wrong. Because the situation may change rapidly, it is important the analysis be done thoroughly by specialists in order to ensure public safety.

b. Responding on Scene

- i. Responders arriving at the scene without knowledge of the hazardous materials involved will attempt to determine at a distance what material is involved, ensuring utmost regards for personal safety and staying upwind of the incident scene. Binoculars should be used to read placard identification numbers and responders should then contact their emergency communications dispatcher. After referring to the North American Emergency Response Guidebook and other sources for information on hazards from the material involved, responders will cautiously determine if any victims require rescue and take appropriate action.

c. Technical Assistance

- i. Few communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have the extent of expertise to analyze the wide range of hazardous material emergencies that can occur and would need to request technical assistance for many types of emergencies. A critical element of assessment and evaluation is to recognize when additional expertise is needed and how to obtain it. Local Fire Departments or the Incident Commander can directly request local, regional, community (if available), or State Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams.
- ii. The process of assessment and evaluation takes place at several levels. At the emergency site, the Incident Commander must have expertise available that can provide technical guidance. Local or state Response Teams may provide this technical guidance. Determination of the type of hazard

7.09 Hazardous Materials

involves knowing what hazardous material is involved and its potential impact and containment status.

d. State Assistance Contacts

- i. State assistance should be requested through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) at 888-304-1133 and/or the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) at 508-820-2000. Federal assistance will be requested by the responding State agency by contacting the Federal Regional Response Team (RRT).

e. Assessment Priorities

Assessment priorities may include:

- i. Identifying the material involved
- ii. Determining its hazard potential
- iii. Measuring the magnitude of release of material into the environment
- iv. Assessing health impact of the release on emergency workers, the public and environmental resources
- v. As the incident continues, it may be appropriate for an in-depth analysis to be performed at a location where experts can assemble in the proper analytical environment, such as the on-scene Command Post or the local or regional Emergency Operating Center (EOC). In this situation, all appropriate information from the scene should be provided to the assessment and evaluation specialists.
- vi. The Incident Commander must also determine what additional information is needed. Inquiries will be directed to individuals at the scene and to the owners of the material, or to other experts involved.
- vii. Other sources of information that may be used include:
 - 1. North American Emergency Response Guidebook (Orange Book)
 - 2. NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards
 - 3. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Handbooks
 - 4. CHRIS Manual
 - 5. CHEMTREC 800-424-9300
 - 6. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) which are filed with the local Fire Department, REPC, and SERC
 - 7. EPA Chemical Profiles (for Extremely Hazardous Substances)
 - 8. Chemical Industries or Laboratories nearby
 - 9. Farm and Related Industry

7.09 Hazardous Materials

10. Institutions of Higher Learning
11. Hazard Simulation Models (CAMEO, EIS/C, etc)
12. Private Consultants
13. Local Contractors (State Contractors)

f. Considerations

- i. In certain cases, the physical characteristics of a material may be important. For example, if a toxic gas is heavier than air, responders should be advised to avoid low areas. If a material reacts violently with water, fire fighters should not use water.
- ii. Meteorology may be important and should be factored into the assessment. The wind direction may indicate areas or people at risk. Wind speed may help to predict the amount of warning time that will be available in the event of a sudden spill or explosion producing toxic by-products. Atmospheric dispersion will depend on meteorological conditions. Analysts also need to evaluate the weather forecast to prepare for changing conditions, such as precipitation, which may react with materials.
- iii. The Incident Commander must evaluate the potential impact by area and its population. Special consideration must be given to additional facilities, which would contribute to the problem and to those which are subjected to additional risk due to their proximity to the emergency site and the nature of their activities, and those with a special role in emergency response.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND/OR PERSONNEL

- Local Health Officers
- Fire Departments
- Facility Emergency Coordinators
- Industry Specialists
- Police Departments
- Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Management
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Regional Response Team (Federal)
- Local/State Emergency Response Team

g. Response Procedures

i. Response Level 1 - *Controlled Emergency Condition*

1. Incident Commander conducts joint assessment with the Facility Emergency Coordinator
2. Incident Commander provides facility assessment technical information to the Local Emergency Manager, if appropriate
3. Local Emergency Manager provides facility assessment technical information to the Health Officer or Commissioner of Health, if appropriate

ii. Response Level 2 - *Limited Emergency Condition*

1. Incident Commander and Facility Emergency Coordinator continue joint assessment
2. The Incident Commander will determine if additional assessment resources are required
3. The State/Local HAZMAT Team and/or Massachusetts DEP will:
 - a. Deploy assessment monitoring resources
 - b. Determine the magnitude of the release
 - c. Estimate health impact of release on the community
 - d. Based upon available protective action guides recommends protective actions to the Incident Commander
4. The Incident Commander will make protective action decisions and execute the decision through an emergency order, if appropriate

iii. Response Level 3 – *Full Emergency Condition*

1. The State/Local HAZMAT Team and/or Massachusetts DEP will:
 - a. Deploy assessment monitoring resources
 - b. Determine the magnitude of the release
 - c. Estimate health impact of release on the community
 - d. Recommend protective actions based upon available protective action guides, to the On-Scene Commander
 - e. Request assistance from the State in further assessment and evaluation, if required
2. The local Chief Executive will make protective action decisions and execute the decision through emergency orders, if appropriate. Evacuation and/or Shelter in Place decisions that demand urgent and immediate attention action will be directed and managed by the Incident Commander
3. The Local Emergency Manager and the Incident Commander will request additional State A&E support, if required
4. The responding State agency (if required) will determine if the situation requires Federal assistance. If required they will contact the Federal Regional Response Team (RRT).