	Special Operations
	Knoxville Fire Department **Hazardous Material Response**
	Policy
	Policy #204.01 | **Adopted 04/09/2019**

PURPOSE:

To ensure a uniform safe response to incidents involving the release or potential release of any hazardous material.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all members responding to hazardous materials incidents.

When responding to hazardous materials incidents the department shall operate at the "Operations Level" as defined in CFR 1910.120(q)(6)(ii). Depending on the scale of the incident the Incident Commander (I.C.) will initiate the Marion County Emergency Response Plan and may request additional resources as needed (Hazmat Team, Law Enforcement, Mutual Aid, etc.).

Initial Response

When responding to hazardous materials incidents personnel shall follow guidelines established for hazardous materials incident management.

The first arriving apparatus/personnel shall stop at least 200 feet prior to the reported incident address. Unless specifically directed by the I.C. all other units should stage. A Safety Officer shall be designated by the IC.

No department personnel shall approach closer to the scene until an evaluation determines that the approach is safe to make.

No department personnel will enter any vapor cloud, spilled or pooled material, enclosed/confined space or otherwise contaminated area until the chemical and its hazards have been identified and it can be shown the proper protective clothing is available and in use

Site Management

As soon as practical the IC. shall establish control zones designated as follows:

Hot Zone

The areas of product release where chemical is present or suspected of being present.

This zone may initially be established visually by the first arriving apparatus. The zone may be redefined using monitoring or Site Specific Preplans.

Initially, any visible vapor cloud, spilled or pooled material, enclosed confined spaces, shall be considered as the Hot Zone.

Warm Zone

The area immediately outside the Hot Zone. Decontamination should be located in this area. Only personnel wearing proper protective clothing and S.C.B.A. may operate in this area.

Cold Zone

The outer most area at the scene. This area is considered non-contaminated. The command post, staging area, rehab, EMS treatment, and other support functions should be located in this area.

Any activity required to control the product/situation or to perform rescue shall be conducted using the buddy system. All teams shall consist of a minimum of two (2) members with a minimum of two (2) backup personnel. The backup team shall be ready to enter should the initial team experience problems.

Product Identification/Risk Assessment

The IC. shall use all available means to identify the chemical involved before allowing personnel to work in areas where contamination could occur.

The IC. should consider the following information to assist in

identification: Occupancy Location

Container Shapes

Markings/Colors
Placards/Labels

Shipping
Papers/MSD's
Monitoring

The LC. shall determine the physical and health hazards of the chemicals involved and determine the appropriate level of protective clothing and respiratory protection.

Protective Clothing

All personnel responding to an incident involving the release of or potential release of hazardous materials shall wear full protective clothing:

Helmet
Hood
Bunker
Coat

Bunker Pants
Gloves

Boots

Any member responding to an incident presenting an inhalation or potential for inhalation hazard, shall wear S.C.B.A. until such time as the LC. determines, through use of appropriate air monitoring equipment , that a lower level of respiratory protection will not result in hazardous exposure.

Access to the Hot Zone shall be limited to those personnel who are wearing appropriate protective clothing and respiratory protection.

Product Control

Personnel shall attempt to confine chemicals to the smallest area possible using defensive techniques. Defensive techniques include:

Diking
Damming
Diversion

Vapor Suppression
Vapor Dispersion

With the exception of incidental spills of gasoline, fuel, oil, petroleum products, and LP gas personnel shall not attempt any aggressive actions or make close approach to a leaking container for the purpose of plugging or stopping the leak.

In cases where aggressive action is required in order to perform a rescue, the IC. shall utilize the appropriate action (mechanical ventilation, fog streams, etc.,) to reduce the concentration

of the hazardous atmosphere. The LC. shall provide for constant air monitoring during operations.

The LC. should ensure that the control method is compatible with the chemical

released: Water Reactivity

Appropriate foam selection

Compatibility of diking material

Decontamination Activity

Basic decontamination procedure should be instituted any time the is a potential for exposure to a hazardous atmosphere or there are victims who may have been exposed.

Contaminated victims shall not be released for transport until appropriate decontamination is completed.

The I.C. shall appoint a Decon Officer to supervise the set-up and operation of the decontamination line.

Termination

Following the emergency phase of a Hazmat Incident the LC. shall ensure that the following activities are completed:

On-Scene Debriefing

All responders shall be advised of the chemicals involved and symptoms of exposure.

Any equipment used or damaged that cannot be decontaminated or repaired shall be reported.

Medical Monitoring

Any personnel with chemical exposure shall have their medical condition monitored.

All personnel are responsible to review and be familiar with department Rules & Regulations, Policies and SOGs.

Review Cycle

Rules & Regulations, Policies and SOGs will be reviewed and/or revised a minimum of every two (2) years. Specific Rules & Regulations, Policies and SOGs will be reviewed/ revised more frequently as necessary. Depending on the scope of any necessary revisions , one or more steps of the standard process for the development of Rules & Regulations , Policies and SOGs will then be utilized.

By the order of: _____

Fire Chief

Date 01/2019