

CAL FIRE Butte Unit
Policies and Procedures



Approved By: 
Darren Read, Unit Chief

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POLICY:

All Hazardous Material (HazMat) First Responders will follow the operational procedures for dispatch and response to Hazardous Material incidents as adopted by the Butte County Fire Chiefs Association. This operational procedure references the nationally recognized Model Procedures Guide for Hazardous Materials Incidents and complies with Cal-OSHA standards.

PROCEDURE:

GENERAL RESPONSE OPERATIONS:

The first arriving resource at a HazMat incident should:

1. Recognize the HazMat Incident
2. Develop a Size-up and provide a Report on Conditions (ROC)
3. Establish Command
4. Develop objectives and set priorities
5. Implement Tactical Objectives

The overall priorities of any HazMat Incident are:

1. Life Safety
2. Environmental Protection
3. Property Conservation

SAFETY

The first strategic goal is always the safety of responders. Tactical objectives include:

- Recognize a HazMat incident
- Positioning apparatus and personnel uphill, upwind, upstream, and in direction of retreat, utilizing time distance and shielding.
- Utilize full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Evacuate as necessary

ISOLATE AND DENY ENTRY

Responder and public safety is the primary concern at any HazMat incident. Isolating and denying entry can be the most effective strategic goal in providing life safety. Initial responders should establish site control measures that allow personnel to perform their duties safely and within limits of their PPE and training. Consider assigning a Site Access Control Leader.

Tactical Objectives Include:

- Initial isolation
- Deny entry
- Establish perimeters
- Establish a Safe Refuge Area
- Initiate evacuations or shelter in place
- Conduct air monitoring

NOTIFICATIONS

HazMat incidents may be initially reported as traffic collisions, EMS calls, fires or hazardous conditions. It is imperative that the appropriate resources are ordered. Mandatory notifications must be made promptly.

Tactical Objectives include:

- Notify ECC of a "Hazardous Materials Incident"
- Give appropriate response route/staging area
- Request necessary resources
- Hazardous Materials Specialists can assist with all legal and special notifications:
 - Environmental Health
 - State Warning Center and National Response Center (Cal OES)
 - Air Quality Management District
 - Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - Regional Threat Assessment Center
 - Department of Fish & Wildlife
 - US EPA/Cal EPA
 - School District (release within ½ mile of school)

COMMAND

During a HazMat incident, it is essential that an effective command be established early in the incident, preferably by the first arriving resource. Utilize the Field Operations Guide, HazMat section, to assist in implementing the Incident Command System for complex hazardous materials incidents.

In Butte County, statutory IC authority for HazMat releases is delegated as follows:

- For all unincorporated roadways and state freeways: CHP
- For waterways/state wildlife areas: California Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW)
- All other areas: Fire department having jurisdiction

Tactical Objectives Include:

- Assume command and establish a Command Post (FRO Trained)
- Establish Unified Command when appropriate

- Establish Staging Area and assign Staging Area Manager
- Developing strategic plan and tactical objectives
- Maintain necessary documentation
- Establish incident organization (the positions that can reasonable be filled by FRO trained personnel are noted, along with the positions that are required to be filled at all HazMat incidents requiring Level A entry.) They are as follows:

- Incident Commander
- Safety Officer
 - Assistant Safety Officer-Hazardous Materials (Required)
- HazMat Group Supervisor or Branch Director (HazMat Team Leader)
 - Entry Team Leader
 - Decontamination Team Leader
 - Site Access Control Team Leader (FRO)
 - Technical Reference Specialist
 - Safe Refuge Area Manager (FRO)
 - Evacuation Group Supervisor or Branch Director (FRO)

IDENTIFICATION AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT

To control the HazMat incident, it is necessary to understand the hazards that responders will encounter so that appropriate actions can be taken to protect life, environment, and property. The strategic goal is to identify the product and its properties and assess the hazard that the product poses to life, environment and property.

Important information in ensuring an appropriate response includes:

- Number, location and condition of victims
- Chemical name, hazards, and properties
- Occupancy type
- Container type, size, and location
- Nature of the spill or leak
- Environment in which the incident occurred
- Terrorist threat and secondary devices

Tactical Objectives Include:

- Reconnaissance and observation
- Contact with responsible party or victims
- Reference sources including shipping papers, placards, labels, SDS, and NAERG
- Air monitoring

ACTION PLAN

Developing and implementing the action plan is an ongoing process that begins when the units are first dispatched and arrive at scene, until the incident terminates. In evaluating the appropriate actions for the incident, a risk-versus-gain analysis must be made on all alternatives. These must be compared to natural stabilization or no-action alternative. The Incident Commander must consider the level of training and equipment at scene before selecting alternatives. If FRO's are the only personnel at scene the IC may be limited to choosing only defensive actions.

Tactical Objections Include:

- Isolate and deny entry
- No-action
- Protective actions (Rescue, Evacuation, Shelter-in-place)
- Emergency decontamination, mass decontamination
- Notifications
- Containment
- Control

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Identifying the appropriate level of protection for responders and ensuring that PPE is worn is essential in providing overall life safety at the incident. If FRO PPE is not sufficient, operations must be postponed until the arrival of a Hazardous Materials Team.

Tactical Objectives Include:

- Referencing Emergency Response Guide book to determine proper PPE
- Evaluating FRO PPE
- Ensuring all personnel are wearing the appropriate PPE
- Using time, distance and shielding as method to help limit exposure

CONTAIN AND CONTROL

The strategic goal is to contain, control, limit or stop the spread of the product through the environment. The most important issue in this step is the safety of the personnel performing these operations.

Responders must stay within their level of training and the limitation of their equipment. FRO's are trained to primarily perform defensive operations. FRO's can perform spill containment if they do not come into contact with the material and have adequate PPE. FRO's may only perform leak control operations when the chemical product is confirmed; PPE requirements are turnout clothing or below; personnel are trained in operations to be performed; and immediate action will provide substantial benefit. A thorough risk assessment must always be made and appropriate decontamination facilities must be established before site entry is attempted.

Tactical Objectives Include:

FRO's are limited to perform:

- Dike
- Divert
- Retain
- Absorb
- Foam
- Disperse

Technician/Specialist are trained to perform:

- Plugging
- Patching
- Transferring
- Neutralizing
- Flaring

PROTECTIVE ACTIONS

Protective actions are required when isolating and denying entry to the incident area are not sufficient to protect the public from harm.

Tactical Objectives Include:

- Shelter-in-place (cannot be used in explosive incidents or incidents where catastrophic failure would injure individuals sheltering in place)
- Evacuation
- Rescue
- Combination of two or more
- Establish Evacuation Group or Branch

DECONTAMINATION (DECON)

Decontamination is the process of removing contaminants from victims, responders, and equipment. This strategic objective is to contain all contamination to the exclusion zone and contamination reduction zone.

Tactical Objectives Include:

- Assign Decontamination Team Leader
- Perform Emergency Decon (FRO) or-
- Perform Standard Decon (FRO) or-
- Perform Equipment Decon (FRO) or-
- Perform Mass Decon (FRO)

DISPOSAL

Disposal is the process of removing the hazardous material and mitigating any environmental impacts the incident has caused. Disposal and remediation methods will depend upon the nature and significance of the incident. HazMat Technicians will generally supervise clean up and disposal operations.

Tactical Objectives Include:

- Provide oversight of disposal and clean up
- Supervise Department of Toxic Substance Control contractor
- Assist federal or state agencies in the oversight of clean up and disposal
- Assist Butte County Environmental Health in the oversight of clean up and disposal

DOCUMENTATION

The strategic objective of documentation is to provide a record of significant activities and events that have occurred at the incident and following the incident.

Tactical Objectives Include:

Maintain and complete the following:

- Incident Briefing, ICS 201
- Site Safety Plan, ICS 208
- Unit Log, ICS 214
- Incident Objectives, ICS 202
- Responsible Party Information
- Record all notifications (who, when, and incident identification number)
- Investigate Report
- Exposure Report
- Post Incident Analysis

LEVELS OF RESPONSE AND STANDARD RESPONSE PLAN

The Emergency Command Center (ECC) will determine the appropriate HazMat level using the following criteria:

GENERAL NOTES:

- Natural gas leaks outside a structure should be dispatched as Hazardous Condition (less than 4" diameter gas line), Notify Gas Co
- Natural gas leaks inside a structure should be dispatched using appropriate Fire Structure resp. plan (with a HazTech), Notify Gas Co
- Leaks from residential propane tanks (less than 250 gallons) should be dispatched as Hazardous Condition, Notify Gas Co

- Gasoline, oil, and diesel fuel leaks (less than 5 gallons) should be dispatched as Hazardous Condition

Level 1:

- Minor leak or spill from 55 gallons or less (propane tank leaks 250 to 500 gallons)
- Known substance with low fire/explosion hazard and minimal environmental impact
- Drug Lab Waste (For active drug labs, see Drug Lab response)
- Threats of biological hazard or Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD-CBRNE)
- Natural gas leak outside a structure, 4" to 6" diameter gas line

Level 2:

- Leaks from numerous small containers or single container over 55 gallons
- Known substance with moderate fire or explosion hazard and environmental impact
- Any placarded material when there is a leak or possible compromise of a medium size container/tank (tank less than 500 gal; propane tank leaks 500 to 1,000 gallons)
- Natural gas leak outside a structure, greater than 6" diameter gas line

Level 3:

- Leaks or potential leaks from one or more large containers, such as tank cars or cargo (highway) tankers or large fixed facility tanks
- Known substance with high fire/explosion hazard and severe environmental impact
- Leaks from large tanks (500 gal +) or containers with NFPA rating of 3 or 4 (propane tank leaks 1,000 gallons +)
- Explosives A or B

Level 3 Mass-Casualty:

- Intentional Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, or Explosive incidents (WMD-CBRNE)
- More than 3 people are experiencing symptoms from chemical exposure
- Populated areas are threatened by chemical release with expected mass casualties

Drug Lab (Assist BINTF):

- BINTF (via BCSO) should be the requesting agency
- Response may be modified upon BINTF request
- Pre-staging of fire response with radio silence may be required

Mutual Aid (Outside Butte County):

- Request should come from CAL-OES through Mutual Aid System and should have a mission number. Aid requests are not generally for Level 1 or static incidents. Notification to B2116 and Duty Chief
- Local Mutual Aid response Hwy 32 (E) area to up to Deer Creek (Aid to Tehama County/SCHMRT). Notification to B2116 and Duty Chief
- Local Mutual Aid response in Feather River Canyon up to Belden (Aid to Plumas County). Notification to B2116 and Duty Chief
- Local Mutual Aid response to Colusa County (Aid to Colusa County). Notification to B2116 and Duty Chief

Other Info:

- If in Sta 64 first due area, dispatch first-due engine from Sta 64, have second-due county/state engine respond w/HM64 (if needed)
- Level 2 or Drug Lab: Dispatch either Type 2 (HM 5) or Type 3 (HM 64) HazMat Unit, whichever is closest
- Notify CHP if on a freeway/unincorporated highway/roadway/right-of-way, or at a state facility
- Notify State Parks if on/around Lake Oroville SRA/Sacramento River SRA
- Notify DFW if at Clay Pit SVRA, Table Mountain Ecological Preserve, or Oroville Wildlife Area
- Notify Gas company for gas leaks (PG&E if natural gas; propane provider if propane)

The ECC will dispatch a response to the determined Hazmat level using the HazMat Standard Response Plan (RSP):

Level	Duty Chf	Bat Chf	HM Unit Type 2	HM Unit Type 3	Team Leader	Haz Tech	Engine	Squad	Breathing Support	Medics	CHP
1		Notify				1	*1				***Notify
2	Notify	1	**1	**1	1	3	2			1	***Notify
3	1	1	1		1	5	4	1	1	1	***Notify
3 w/Mass Casualty	1	1	1	1	1	5	4	1	1	3	***Notify
Drug Lab		Notify	**1	**1	1	2	1				
Mutual Aid	Notify	B2116	1		1	5					

Resources will respond Code-2 to Level 1 HazMat's and Drug Labs. All other HazMat responses require Code-3 response unless otherwise instructed.