

7050.01

Hazardous Materials Response Standard Operating Procedure



This procedure is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The procedure should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this procedure, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.

Related Policies: Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, Chief's Memo 2016-008

Applicable HI Statutes: HRS 128D

I. PURPOSE

Establish guidelines for responding to hazardous materials (HazMat) incidents to ensure safety and effective incident management.

II. APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all personnel within the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD).

III. AUTHORITY

The Fire Chief and designated members have authority based on the County Charter, which aligns with federal regulations (CERCLA, RCRA, OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120) and state statutes (HRS Chapter 128D).

IV. RESPONDER LEVELS

1. **Level 1:** Controlled by the first engine company; minimal risk, confined to a small area.
2. **Level 2:** Larger hazard, may require limited evacuation; typically requires a contractor for cleanup.
3. **Level 3:** Severe hazard, large-scale evacuation likely; requires coordination with city, state, and federal resources.

V. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIANS (HMT)

1. Must be trained in OSHA standards (29 CFR 1910.120) and certified in awareness, operations, and technician levels.
2. Annual and specialized training is required to maintain competency. These requirements shall be identified within the SOG 10010.01 Hazardous Materials Response Guide.

VI. INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

1. HazMat incidents must align with the National Incident Management System.
2. ICS is used for command, communication, and resource coordination on all HazMat incidents.
3. For entry level operations, an Incident Action Plan with a Hazard Risk Analysis shall be prepared and approved prior to personnel working within the Hot Zone.

VII. RESPONSE PROCEDURES

1. Establish zones: Hot, Warm, and Cold.
2. Implement site management, decontamination, and rescue as needed.
3. Conduct air monitoring, rescue operations, and mitigation based on hazard assessment.

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VIII. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

1. HMTs must use appropriate levels (A, B, C, or D) based on incident risk and exposure.
2. Regular testing and maintenance of equipment are required to ensure functionality.

IX. COST RECOVERY

1. Costs incurred during HazMat incidents may be recovered through local, state, or federal programs if applicable.

X. DECONTAMINATION PROCESS

1. Two types: Emergency (immediate, flexible approach) and Technical (planned, regulated disposal of effluent).
2. Procedures ensure contamination is minimized for personnel and equipment.
3. Decontamination shall be performed in accordance with SOG 10010.01 Hazardous Materials Response Guide.

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