

# Buechel Fire Protection District

## Fire-ground Operations

FGO-0006

Page 1 of 6

Title: Hazardous Materials Incidents

Approval Date – 8-2-1994

Section	Instruction
1.	<p><b><u>Hazardous Materials Incidents</u></b> The objective of this procedure is to provide general guidelines to assist emergency personnel in dealing with any hazardous material incidents they may encounter.</p> <p><b>Definition:</b> Hazardous Material - Any element, compound or combination thereof, which is flammable, corrosive, etc., and which because of handling, storage, processing, or packaging, may have detrimental effects on operating and emergency personnel, the public, equipment, and/or the environment. *</p> <p>Hazardous Materials Incidents encompass a wide variety of potential situations including fires, spills, chemical reactions, explosions, gas releases, transportation accidents and similar incidents. Hazards involved may include flammability, toxicity, corrosiveness, radiological hazards, reactivity, environmental and health hazards and so on. This plan is designed as a general guideline to handle these types of incidents, but does not address any specific tactical or control measures for any particular type of emergency.</p> <p>* From: <i>Hazardous Materials</i>, Warren Isman &amp; Gene Carlson 1980</p> <p><b><u>Size-Up</u></b> The first arriving officer must begin a size-up and consciously avoid committing to a dangerous situation. The objective of the size-up is to identify the nature and severity of the immediate problem and gather sufficient information to formulate a plan of action. A hazardous materials incident requires a more cautious and deliberate size-up than most fire situations.</p> <p>Avoid premature commitment of companies and personnel to potentially hazardous locations. Proceed with caution in evaluating risks before formulating a plan of action and keep uncommitted companies at a safe distance. The major problem in most cases is to identify the type of materials involved in the incident, and the hazards presented, before formulating a plan of action.</p>

# Buechel Fire Protection District

## Fire-ground Operations

FGO-0006

Page 2 of 6

Title: Hazardous Materials Incidents

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Section	Instruction
2.	<p>Based on the initial size-up and any information available, the Fire Ground Commander will have to formulate an action plan to deal with the situation at hand. The action plan must provide for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Safety of Citizens and Firefighters</li><li>2. Evacuation of an endangered areas</li><li>3. Control of the situation</li><li>4. Stabilization of the incident scene</li><li>5. Decontamination of personnel (civilian and fire) prior to leaving the scene.</li></ol> <p><b><u>Control of the Area</u></b></p> <p>The first arriving unit must identify a Hazardous Zone based on potential danger, taking into account the materials involved, time of day, weather and wind conditions, location of the incident and the degree of risk to unprotected personnel. Immediate action must be taken to evacuate and/or rescue persons in critical danger when possible, providing for the safety of rescuers.</p> <p>Access to the Hazardous Zone will be rigidly controlled and only personnel with a specific assignment may enter it. Fire Department personnel will record entry and exit from the Hazardous Zone. During the course of the Hazardous Material Incident, the Incident Commander may direct the Police to establish a Restricted Area around the scene. No one except fire forces may enter the Restricted Area unless approved by the Incident Commander. Entry, when approved, must be made through the Access Control Point, which must be designated for responding agencies.</p> <p>The Incident Commander will designate a Command Post. Units that arrive after the initial response will report to the Agency response area, unless given a specific assignment. If an evacuation is necessary the Incident Commander may establish an Evacuation Zone. It is a larger area surrounding the Hazardous Zone. All civilians and non-essential personnel are to be removed from the Evacuation Zone. The perimeter of the Evacuation Zone is to be controlled by the responding law enforcement agency. In some cases it will be necessary to completely evacuate a radius around the incident site (i.e. potential explosion). In other cases it may be advisable to evacuate a path downwind where toxic or flammable vapors may be carried. In other cases sheltering-in-place will work; the following are steps to take for proper sheltering in place.</p>

# Buechel Fire Protection District

## Fire-ground Operations

FGO-0006

Page 3 of 6

Title: Hazardous Materials Incidents

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Section	Instruction
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Go inside immediately</li><li>2) Shut all doors and windows</li><li>3) Turn off AC/heating</li><li>4) Stop outside air from getting inside</li><li>5) Turn on radio listen for instructions</li><li>6) Stay off the telephone.</li></ol> <p>The Jefferson County Telecommunications Bureau should be informed by the Incident Commander of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Location of the Command Post</li><li>2. Location of the Agency response area (staging)</li><li>3. Boundaries of the Restricted Area</li><li>4. Boundaries of the Hazardous Zone</li><li>5. Boundaries of the Evacuation Zone</li></ol> <p>After a hazardous materials incident has been encountered, requiring the use of total protective clothing, a decontamination area must be established and personnel decontaminated prior to being approached by anyone. This applies to civilians as well as fire personnel working within the incident area. The decontamination area shall be established by the Incident Commander or by the Safety Officer.</p> <p>In summary the following steps provide a general strategy for the process of dealing with Hazardous Materials Incident.</p> <p><b>A. Protect Yourself - Use A Safe Approach.</b> Always approach a Hazardous Materials Incident scene with extreme caution. Come in from the upwind, uphill side and position all apparatus a safe distance from the scene until more information is obtained. Assume a Hazardous Material is involved and use all protective equipment. Only trained operation level firefighters will be permitted to respond to Hazardous Materials Incidents.</p> <p><b>B. Identify the Hazards.</b> Information regarding the nature of the incident can be obtained from several sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. People involved in the incident (drivers, plant personnel, witnesses, etc.)</li><li>2. Placards and labels</li><li>3. Shipping papers and Material Safety Data Sheets</li></ol>

# Buechel Fire Protection District

## Fire-ground Operations

FGO-0006

Page 4 of 6

Title: **Hazardous Materials Incidents**

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Section	Instruction
	<p>By identifying the products involved, we are protecting ourselves and determining guidelines for appropriate control actions.</p> <p><b>C. Secure the Scene.</b> Initial efforts must be concerned with preventing danger to bystanders and reducing any impact to the environment or surrounding area. Bystanders and emergency personnel will not leave the scene until the need for decontamination has been evaluated.</p> <p><b>D. Obtain Further Aid and Assistance.</b> Technical information and specialized equipment must be obtained from support agencies. Examples are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Division of Environmental Health and Protection has special protective clothing in addition to being able to obtain specific information about Hazardous Materials.</li><li>2. Chemtrec can obtain manufacturers technical information about a product, as well as notifying the shipper, or handler who may send assistance if needed.</li><li>3. Jefferson County EMS Disaster Response Team for equipment and protective clothing and personnel trained to handle a specific material(s).</li><li>4. Louisville Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency - Public information assets, public alert siren activation as well as chemical release profiling.</li></ol> <p><b>E Provide For A Safe Entry Site.</b> Any exposure to chemicals involved must be minimized. Don't approach a Hazardous Material Incident Scene unless it is absolutely necessary for rescue or urgent fire suppression. When it is necessary to do so, have and use proper protective equipment, and know sufficient information about the nature of the product(s) involved. Insure safety by spending as little time as possible in the exposure area.</p> <p>As Firefighters, we have been trained to react quickly to emergencies. Hazardous Materials Incidents, which pose many more variables than other types of emergencies, cannot be dealt with in a quick fashion. The right action is the safest, not necessarily the fastest action taken.</p>

# Buechel Fire Protection District

## Fire-ground Operations

FGO-0006

Page 5 of 6

Title: Hazardous Materials Incidents

Approval Date – 8-2-1994

Section	Instruction
3.	<p data-bbox="402 510 945 541"><b><u>Hazardous Material Levels of Response</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="402 569 1377 638">When a hazardous material(s) incident is declared, it shall be categorized by one of the following levels.</p> <p data-bbox="427 665 1351 735"><b>Level 1 Incident:</b> Local fire jurisdiction can handle local resources and that proper notification is made.</p> <p data-bbox="427 774 1373 953"><b>Level 2 Incident:</b> Local fire jurisdiction request that response from those notified be initiated also Jefferson County Emergency Medical Services Disaster Response Team (DRT) is put on standby for response if the incident escalates. A DRT supervisor will be dispatched to the Agency Response Area.</p> <p data-bbox="427 995 1386 1064"><b>Level 3 Incident:</b> Local fire jurisdiction request immediate response from EMS (DRT) for assistance.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1092 1370 1197">The system was developed for EMS notification for the HMRT response needs. However, the three (3) levels give no indication as to the severity of the incident.</p>
4.	<p data-bbox="402 1228 953 1260"><b><u>Procedures For Mitigation of Fuel Spills</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="402 1287 1049 1318">This pertains only to gasoline, diesel and oil spills.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1350 1386 1673">A fuel spill of any of the above products can be handled two (2) ways. First, they can be washed into the sewer system if the total amount is 25 gallons or less and is not in an area of exception (area of exception will be explained later). Secondly, the product can be absorbed with the mitigation kits provided. After the product is absorbed and retained in the proper container(s), the container is to be marked as to what product(s) is in the container. If a mixed product is absorbed, this must be indicated on the container. <b><u>In no case can any quantity of any product be flushed to any roadside, creek, stream, or any drain that leads to a creek or stream.</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="402 1680 1330 1749">Where any product quantity exceeds 25 gallons, the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) must be notified and proper containment is initiated.</p> <p data-bbox="402 1776 1347 1881">An <u>AREA OF EXCEPTION</u> is an area where MSD will allow the fire departments to flush the above referenced products into the sewer system. These exception areas are normally due to pump or lift stations located in</p>

# Buechel Fire Protection District

## Fire-ground Operations

FGO-0006

Page 6 of 6

Title: Hazardous Materials Incidents

Approval Date – 8-2-1994

Section	Instruction
5.	<p>this area within the sewer system. Since many lines connect the sewer system, good judgment must be used when determining if the spill to be flushed is too close to the exception area. Normally, smaller lines flow into larger lines. Remember though, if in doubt, the product can be absorbed. Also, MSD does not need to be notified if the spill is 25 gallons or less and the spill is properly mitigated.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Kits:</b> The mitigation kits are supplied by MSD and consist of five-gallon containers and absorbent material.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> If an immediate danger to life hazard exist (e.g. an automobile accident requiring victim extrication), the Incident Commander has the authority to mitigate any fuel spill without immediate concern for the subsequent runoff but must notify MSD of this action.</p> <p><b><u>Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents</u></b></p> <p>In the even of a terrorist action involving nuclear, chemical or biological substances, the potential for large numbers of patients in need of decontamination is extremely high. Decontamination efforts may include the use of fire hose and master streams to complete mass decontamination.</p> <p>Upon initiation of the “Adopt-A-Hospital” program, available fire units will be sent to Norton's Hospital (down town) to provide decontamination operations. This plan is out lined in Annex Q appendix AA-1. Oversight of this program is provided by the Louisville Jefferson County Crisis Management Group.</p>