

SPANISH MOSS
Emergency Response Plan
Hazardous Materials and WMD Response

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is to establish safe and uniform guidelines for the response to incidents involving hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction. Its goal is to protect the public and secure the scene while safeguarding response personnel.

POLICY

When dealing with incidents involving potential or actual hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction, personnel must institute measures that protect the public and safeguard personnel. Therefore, recommendations include that responderís act as, and operate within the limitations of, awareness-level responders.

Specific actions for awareness-level responders involve making appropriate notifications, isolating the affected areas, and denying entry to the site.

Specific actions for awareness-level responders are basic control and confinement of the incident within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available to law enforcement personnel.

Evacuating persons from contaminated or potentially contaminated areas is the responsibility of fire department personnel with appropriate equipment and training.

DEFINITIONS

- *hazardous materials*{ XE "*hazardous materials*" }ó any substance or material that can cause substantial harm to lives, property, and/or the environment
- *hot zone*{ XE "*hot zone*" }ó area around the material where contamination can occur
- *plume*{ XE "*plume*" }ó cloud of gas formed when a chemical releases into the atmosphere. It is typically long and cigar shaped.
- *unified command*{ XE "*unified command*" }ó agencies from various disciplines working together to develop strategies to address common problems

PROCEDURES

Hazardous materials can be found in fixed facilities, vehicles, clandestine labs

used for drug or terrorist production, and sites targeted by terrorists. Response personnel assigned to a hazardous materials incident must follow these guidelines:

Response to Scene

1. When a potential incident call comes in, communications center personnel must contact the local weather center to determine wind direction and anticipated changes in wind direction. Then they must provide that data to responding personnel. Responding personnel shall approach the scene from an upwind direction. That is, they approach with the wind behind them or, if the wind is blowing from the east, they approach from the east.
2. While responders are en-route to the scene, communications center personnel contact the complainant to determine:
 - a. What is the nature of the incident?
 - b. Was the knowledge of material and container?
3. Communications center personnel relay all information from the complainant to responding personnel.
4. Communications center personnel advise the complainant not to touch the material and evacuate the area.

Identify the Nature of the Problem

1. Acquire as much information as feasible from the caller about the incident.
2. Communications center personnel emphasize that callers must not touch, open, or tamper with the container or its contents.

Isolate/Deny Entry

When responding units receive information (from the complainant via communications center personnel) indicating that biological or chemical material may be involved, response personnel shall not enter the area containing the material. Rather, they must allow the fire department to respond and evaluate.

Responders are responsible at this time is to isolate affected area(s) and deny entry. They accomplish this by:

1. Establishing an initial perimeter of 500 feet for exterior incidents
2. Isolating the building containing the material or device. If the material or device is in a building:
 - hot zone, isolate the room and floor
 - warm zone, isolate the floors above and below
 - cold zone, isolate the rest of the building
3. Not coming in direct contact with potentially contaminated individuals
4. Identifying and directing victims or potentially contaminated individuals to an

area of refuge, preferably one that is upwind. First Responders provide hands-off direction to potentially contaminated persons while directing them to safety.

5. Consulting the *Emergency Response Guidebook* (ERG) within the first 30 minutes, when a substance is a known chemical. (A copy of the guidebook is located in every emergency vehicle.) For a potential biological terrorism incident, consult Guide Page 158, Infectious Substances, for initial guidance.
6. Evacuating individuals to areas beyond the projected path of a toxic plume.

Notifications

Upon arrival to a potential or confirmed hazardous material/WMD incident, the Spanish Moss Communications Center will notify the following resources:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Resource</u>
Spanish Moss Fire Department		Fire suppression and EMS
Spanish Moss Haz-Mat Team		Product identification Incident mitigation
HazMat Coordinator Safety, Health,		Expert guidance on Environmental and Evacuation
Dogwood County Fire Rescue		Fire suppression and EMS
Spanish Moss Police Department		Police, SWAT, K-9 and Crisis Response Team
Spanish Moss Emergency Management		Emergency Preparedness Emergency Operations Center
Duty Officer (24 hours)		Evacuation Support
Spanish Moss Public Works		Facility Maintenance, Road and Bridge

JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSE

One hazardous material unit operates within Dogwood County:

- Spanish Moss Fire Rescue
- Dogwood County Fire Rescue

The HAZ-MAT Team has one assigned geographic area of initial responsibility. However, other teams are available through mutual aid requests.

COMMAND AUTHORITY

The Fire Department's Incident Commander shall have full control of response to the incident. However, a unified command system and local law enforcement assign liaisons to the command team who can commit local resources to the effort.

Command Authority for Terrorist Incidents

The governor of the state has command authority. However, a unified command system at the local level helps guide resources.

The Incident Commander may request law enforcement to:

1. Establish the perimeter and size of the area.
2. Advise when to order evacuation in consultation with Emergency Management.
3. Restrict access to and movement in the area.

SAFETY

In manmade incidents such as bombings and explosions, always suspect a secondary device.

Personnel who arrive first on the scene are first responders with awareness-level responsibilities. First Responders at the awareness-level must:

1. Identify if a chemical or biological threat exists, based upon what is seen and what is communicated.
2. Notify appropriate agencies.
3. Isolate the area by setting perimeters, and deny entry.
4. Protect yourself and the public.

Personnel will avoid direct contact with airborne, solid, or liquid products, and with potentially contaminated persons.

First Responders, Operational Level

Operational-level Responders must operate defensively to protect persons, property, and the environment from the effects of a release. When working with HAZ-MAT Technician Level, personnel properly protected and trained to the Operational Level may take limited actions in a hot zone. From a public protective perspective, Awareness Level First Responders activities are to safeguard the lives of persons outside the hot zone. Therefore, any action conducted within the hot zone regards personal safety as the prime

consideration.

DECONTAMINATION

The Spanish Moss Fire Department HAZMAT Team performs decontamination.