

# ***Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association***

*Augusta County Government Center  
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## ***Fire-EMS Standard Operating Guideline***

<b>Section:</b>	<b>7 Hazardous-Materials</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Haz-Mat</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Augusta 2008</b>

### **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

#### **Dispatch Guidelines**

Fire and rescue companies will be dispatched to incidents in their response area along with the hazardous material team from Company 10. (Small diesel fuel or gasoline spills are not considered as hazardous material.) The County Fire-Rescue Chief has been designated as Augusta County Hazardous Material Officer, and should be notified of any incident involving a hazardous material. He can be contacted through the EOC.

#### **OPERATING PROCEDURES**

The following procedures are to be followed when approaching a known or suspected hazardous material incident.

#### **First Arriving Unit**

The primary function of the first arriving unit is personnel safety and then to rescue any injured person(s) if possible, only if de-con is available. Equally important to identify the product involved and the hazards they present.

The first arriving officer must at all times approach the task of identification with caution. Always approach up-wind and far enough away so not to endanger personnel, and USE BINOCULARS!! If in your judgment, it is not possible to ascertain identification without placing personnel in the hazard of the product - retreat and await the arrival of the Haz-Mat Team.

The first arriving emergency personnel shall attempt to identify products by any of the following means:

1. Placards with number, labels, or other markings.
2. Shipping papers, way-bills, or bills of lading.
3. Truck number and/or name of manufacturer.

4. Ask on-scene personnel (driver, plant manager, witnesses)

Once product is identified, the first arriving unit is to relay this information to Augusta EOC spelling the product name phonetically. EOC is to use alert tones and repeat "possible hazardous material", and give or spell the product. The first arriving officer will also establish the "Hot Line" perimeter (refer to Control of Hazardous Area section for details)

## **Other Units**

All other units will hold up at least three (blocks) or one thousand (1,000) feet away from incident scene and await directions from first arriving unit. Units must stage in a safe location - taking into account wind direction and speed, spill flow, and similar factors.

## **Officer in Charge**

The highest ranking officer responding to the incident will take command. With assistance of the Haz-Mat Team, the Chief will formulate a viable, workable plan of action.

This plan should provide for the following:

1. Safety of citizens.
2. Safety of emergency personnel.
3. Evacuation of endangered area.
4. Decontamination of personnel.
5. Incident stabilization.

**NOTE:** The goal of the action plan should be to mitigate and stabilize the situation - and not to clean-up and dispose of the hazardous material. It is not the responsibility of emergency personnel to clean-up the material - this rests with the owner or shipper of the product. The Haz-Mat team may however, offer technical advice and recommendations on clean-up but should not actively engage in clean-up operations.

## **The incident commander should when needed:**

- \* Appoint and assign a Staging Officer
- \* Appoint and assign a Safety Officer
- \* Provide for evacuation of affected area (with assistance of Police)
- \* Establish "Warm Zone" perimeter.
- \* Call for additional equipment.

## **GENERAL PRECAUTIONS**

1. Units responding to a known or suspected hazardous material incident shall approach the scene upwind and uphill when possible.
2. All personnel shall wear full protective clothing including positive pressure breathing apparatus.
3. Except for immediate life-saving rescue, no major fire suppression or control operation should be initiated until the material involved and the hazards associated are identified.

4. All men and equipment not directly involved in the initial handling of the incident must be kept in a staging area or at a safe distance until identification of the material is made and the incident commander has issued orders as to how these units are to be utilized.
5. Incident commanders shall see that only the minimum number of personnel is utilized when operating at a hazardous material incident.
6. Always assume an unknown material to be flammable, toxic, or explosive until proven otherwise.
7. All articles of clothing and any equipment, including apparatus, that comes in contact with contaminated or hazardous material or run-off from a contaminated area shall be considered to be contaminated.
8. When decontamination is required no persons or equipment will leave the affected area until they have been decontaminated.