

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

STANDARD NO(S)

NYSLEAP 47.7

DATE:

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REFER TO:

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I. OBJECTIVE:

To establish procedures for the control and removal of hazardous materials accidentally or intentionally released, especially when such materials are linked to an actual or suspected terrorist act.

II. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the SCSO to take all possible action to protect life and property when encountering the release of a hazardous material (HAZMAT) within Seneca County; and, to participate fully with designated federal, state or local agencies in the responses demanded when the use or threatened use of hazardous materials is suspected to be connected to terrorism.

III. DETAILS:

- A.** Hazardous materials are used by a number of businesses in Seneca County. In addition, hazardous materials are regularly transported throughout our area by rail, tank truck, common carrier and air. Chemical spills resulting from traffic accidents or other mishaps present a serious threat to the health and safety of the general public, and especially to the member who is first responder to the scene.
- B.** Hazardous materials include any substance in a quantity or form which may be injurious to people, domestic animals, wild life, crops or property when released into the environment. Substances may be any element, compound, or combination thereof which is flammable, corrosive, detonable, toxic, radioactive, oxidative, or highly reactive, and which, because of handling, storing, processing, and packaging, may present a threat to the above.
- C. Procedures** - An important responsibility of members responding to accidents or spills involving hazardous materials is to keep the situation from becoming worse.

Members will continually be aware of the fact that any traffic accident involving a cargo vehicle is a potential hazardous material incident. Members must be cautious and observant for any indication of hazardous materials before approaching a cargo vehicle involved in an accident.

1. Members should isolate the area immediately and evacuate non-essential personnel, if necessary. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESCUE INJURED PERSONS UNTIL FULLY AWARE OF HAZARDS INVOLVED. AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH THE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL.**
2. EMERGENCY RECOGNITION & PREVENTION PROCEDURES
 - a. The first arriving public safety personnel discovering an incident involving the release or potential release of a hazardous material shall exercise extreme caution and discretion prior to entering an exposed area. Should conditions be such that members would be exposed to the extent their personal safety would be jeopardized, members shall not enter the area. They will await the arrival of a properly equipped haz-mat unit.
 - b. Stay upwind and at least 600 feet from the spill, if possible.
 - c. All incident responses will follow National Incident Management System procedures.

D. Responsibilities - Whether a hazardous materials incident occurs on a roadway or within a facility within the boundaries of Seneca County, if it is determined that hazardous materials were or may be released as a result of the incident, primary responsibility for response and control lies with a designated Incident Commander.

1. According to the Seneca County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which includes as Appendix "A" the Seneca County Hazardous Material/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Response Plan the Incident Commander is the Chief of the Fire Department in whose jurisdiction the incident occurs. The responsibilities of the Incident Commander are:
 - a. Identify the product
 - b. Classify the Hazmat Incident as to Level of Response
 - 1.) Type 0 – small incident, few resources needed.
 - 2.) Type 1 – several resources, only one operational period.
 - 3.) Type 2 – significant number of resources, multiple operational periods, multi-jurisdictional, out of area resources (regional or national),
 - 4.) Type 3 – expected to go into multiple operational periods, event of national significance.
 - c. Make notification to E-911 Center.
 - d. Establish an on-scene command post, at a safe distance from the disaster or accident scene, from which field operations will be directed and controlled, and staff as needed to handle the operation.

- e. Be responsible for coordinating all field operations through support agency representatives, who will retain control of their respective forces, and command the on-scene response force.
 - f. Contact owners of buildings, which may be used as a command post.
 - g. Delineate the area encompassed by the disaster, and establish this as the disaster area.
 - h. Control the disaster area.
 - i. Make arrangements to obtain radio, telephone and emergency power for the command post.
 - j. Select an area suitable for use as a staging area to receive resources and supplies for the field operations.
 - k. Be responsible to establish and control the emergency routes to and from the scene, establish the location of blocked roadways, control traffic on routes within the disaster area and provide security and crowd control.
 - l. Establish communications with the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or designated off-scene command post.
 - m. Make a recommendation to the chief executive if evacuation is necessary and to what extent the disaster area should be evacuated.
 - n. Direct the evacuation operations within the disaster area.
 - o. Make arrangements to obtain protective clothing for emergency personnel as required by the situation.
 - p. Keep county EOC updated with on-scene situation reports according to a regular reporting schedule.
2. SCSO members will be aware of these plans and of their effect on their responsibilities in the event of a hazardous materials emergency. Specifically, the SCSO responsibilities in a hazardous material or WMD incident are to perform Site Security and maintain control, by;
- 1. Coordinating with the fire department for the isolation of the area and denial of entry to the general public.
 - 2. Coordinating with the fire department for the orderly evacuation of the general public when circumstances warrant.
 - 3. Maintaining security in the evacuated areas.
 - 4. Maintaining a smooth traffic flow around the affected area.
 - 5. Issuing of summons for any violation of the law that occurs.
3. Copies of the Seneca County plans mentioned above shall be kept in a current condition in the Administration Division of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office. Other copies may be maintained in other SCSO components.

E. Training - As mandated by 29 CFR 1910 (Code of Federal Regulations) instruction in hazardous materials at the "first responder awareness level," will be conducted at least annually, in connection with in- service training.

