## HAZWOPER

1. **Purpose**

This procedure provides guidelines for employees who may respond to hazardous materials emergencies.

1. **Responsibility**

The senior official at an emergency response is the most senior official on the site who has the responsibility for controlling operations at the site.

Senior management shall:

* Provide the resources, guidance, equipment, and enforcement necessary to protect personnel engaged in HAZWOPER operations and ensure compliance with this policy.

All personnel shall:

* Be familiar with HAZWOPER operations.
* Comply with all elements of this procedure.
* Use appropriate PPE as directed.
* Attend HAZWOPER training suitable for the level of work intended.

Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Department shall:

* Assist supervisors, managers, and other employees to implement and maintain the elements of this policy.
* Ensure that employees receive the appropriate level of training for HAZWOPER applications and will review all site-specific Health and Safety Plans and emergency response plans.

1. **Emergency Response Plan**

An emergency response plan shall be developed & implemented to handle anticipated emergencies prior to the commencement of emergency response operations. The plan shall be in writing & available for inspection by employees, their representatives & OSHA. The plan shall include at a minimum:

* Pre-emergency planning & coordination with outside parties.
* Personnel roles, lines of authority, training & communications.
* Emergency recognition & prevention.
* Safe distances & places of refuge.

1. **Medical Surveillance**

Medical evaluations will be provided before employees engage in HAZWOPER activities. All medical services required by HAZWOPER will be rendered under the direction of a physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP). Medical surveillance under HAZWOPER is required for:

* All employees whose exposure to contaminants exceeds OSHA allowable levels for 30 days or more per year.
* Employees who wear respiratory protection for 30 days or more per year, or as required by of 29 CFR 1910.134).
* Employees who develop signs or symptoms of illness or exposure to hazardous substances, who become ill, or who are injured due to overexposure to contaminants.
* Members of emergency response (“hazmat”) teams.

1. **Training**

Employees who may be expected to respond to spills or releases of hazardous chemicals, wastes, or substances, must be trained to the appropriate level. Employees who participate, or are expected to participate in emergency responses, shall be given training before they conduct any HAZWOPER activities based on their duties and functions. Training shall be conducted by a competent person with the training and/or academic credentials and instructional experience to demonstrate competency. Employees who have successfully completed the training and field experience, shall receive a written certificate to indicate that all HAZWOPER training requirements have been met

1. **First Responder Awareness Level**

The First Responder Awareness Level training is for individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release, and who are trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities. The employee would take no further action beyond making the first notification of the release. First Responder Awareness Level training will include, as a minimum:

* An understanding of what hazardous substances are and the risks associated with them in an incident.
* An understanding of the potential outcomes associated with an emergency created when hazardous material is present.
* The ability to recognize the presence of hazardous materials in an emergency.
* The ability to identify the hazardous substances, if possible.
* An understanding of the role of the First Responder Awareness
* Ability to realize the need for additional resources, and to make appropriate notifications.

1. **First Responder Operation Level**

First Responders Operations Level includes individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the incident site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release.

First Responders are not permitted to try to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposures. First Responders Operations Level personnel must receive at least eight hours of training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas (in addition to those listed for the First Responder Awareness Level):

* Knowledge of basic hazard and risk assessment techniques.
* Know how to select and use proper personal protective equipment provided to the first responder operational level.
* An understanding of basic hazardous material terms.
* Knowledge of medical surveillance requirements.
* Know how to perform basic control, containment and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available with their unit.
* Know how to implement basic decontamination procedures.
* An understanding of the relevant standard operating procedures and termination procedures.

1. **Hazardous Materials Technician Level**

Hazardous Material Technicians are individuals who respond to releases or potential releases for the purpose of stopping the release. They may approach the point of release in order to plug, patch or otherwise stop the release of a hazardous substance. Hazardous Material Technicians will receive at least 24 hours of training equal to the First Responder Operations Level, and have competency in the following:

* How to implement the employer's emergency response plan.
* Classification, identification and verification of known and unknown materials by using field survey instruments and equipment.
* Ability to function within an assigned role in the Incident Command System.
* Select and use proper specialized chemical personal protective equipment.
* Hazard and risk assessment techniques.
* Perform advance control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available with the unit.
* Implement decontamination procedures.
* Possess an understanding of termination procedures by the Incident Commander.
* Basic chemical and toxicological terminology and behavior.

1. **Refresher Training**

Employees who have completed initial emergency response training will receive annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies, or shall demonstrate competency in those areas at least annually. Refresher training shall be documented.