

CHAPTER II Operations
SUBJECT 1 Call Out and Investigations
TOPIC 1 Environmental Crimes Unit

A. OBJECTIVE

1. To establish guideline and procedures to be used by company officers, and chief officers when requesting an investigation by the Environmental Crimes Unit.

B. POLICY

1. The City of Cincinnati intends to seek restitution for funds expended in the remediation of hazardous materials/hazardous waste responses by city agencies. To this end the environmental Crimes Unit has been established within the Fire Division.

C. DUTIES OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER (I.C.)

1. In any situation where the Fire Division has responded in emergency or nonemergency mode, a determination will be made by the incident commander as to whether a possible or potential environmental crime has occurred at the site. Evidence of such crime might be leaking or damaged barrels, heavy ground staining or indications of chemical mishandling.
2. Should a determination be made by the incident commander that a possible environmental crime exists, the I.C. will notify the Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU), of the Cincinnati Fire Division during regular business hours by telephone at 352-6248.
3. After regular business hours the Incident Commander shall contact the fire tower which will notify the incident commander of the availability of an ECU investigator. Any radio messages concerning the ECU should use the term, "ECU" or "Request that car 502 or 509 respond." Should no investigator be available, the I.C. shall take all necessary information and submit all reports as usual. The I.C. shall leave necessary information and instructions for the proper officer to notify the Environmental Crimes Unit office at 352-6248 on the next business day.

C. DUTIES OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER (I.C.) (Continued)

4. If the original response was initiated by a report of fire or other emergency, the I.C. will remain on the scene or will assign someone to remain on the scene until the arrival of an Environmental Crimes Unit investigator. This will relieve the necessity of obtaining a search warrant for reentry later and will facilitate the investigation.
5. The I.C. shall request an ECU investigator on any response where a hazardous material or hazardous waste has been spilled, leaked or released to the environment in a quantity sufficient to present hazard to the environment, persons or property. This will be a judgement call by the I.C. If in doubt, notify the Environmental Crimes Unit.
6. It is the policy of the Environmental Crimes Unit to dispatch two investigators to any interview situation. Should only one ECU investigator be available for an urgent interview., he may request that the Fire Investigation Unit Specialist on call respond with him. That request will be granted unless it would conflict with an ongoing fire investigation.