



Policy 706

Subject

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL (HAZMAT) INCIDENTS

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By Order of the Police Commissioner

POLICY

Public Safety. It is the policy of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) to ensure that officers are aware of how to properly and safely manage Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) incidents. The safety and wellbeing of officers and citizens is of the utmost importance to BPD.

DEFINITIONS

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) — Refers to certain materials that when encountered by members of the BPD may constitute a Hazardous Materials incident.

CBRN Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) — A type of personal protective equipment designed to provide protection against direct contact with and contamination by Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear substances, and provides protection from contamination with radioactive materials and some types of radiation, depending on the design. This equipment must be certified by NIOSH for respiratory protection and NFPA for protective garments.

Chemical Emergency Transportation Center (CHEMTREC) — An around-the-clock resource for immediate critical response information for Hazardous Material incidents. CHEMTREC links HAZMAT emergency services experts and private contractors from around the world. Contact CHEMTREC at: 1-800-424-9300.

Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) — A manual which guides first responders during Hazardous Materials incidents. The ERG is downloadable from the internet at: <https://www.thecompliancecenter.com/publications/erg.htm> or from Google Play or the iPhone App Store.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) — Any Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear substance believed to be dangerous to health.

Medical Waste — Any equipment or material possibly discarded by a physician, hospital or other health care provider, which may have come in contact with or is otherwise contaminated by infectious disease (Medical Waste has no present or anticipated Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) evidential value). Medical Waste may contain radioactive material.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) — A public health service organization established under the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Its activities include testing and certification of respiratory protective devices and recommendations for occupational exposure limits for various substances.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) — A United States trade association that creates and maintains private, copyrighted, standards and codes for usage and adoption by local government.

GENERAL

HAZMAT Situation

1. The Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) has primary responsibility for containment, neutralization and/or disposal of all HAZMAT materials.
2. Members of the BPD shall assist and support the BCFD and other local, state and federal agencies responsible for containment, neutralization and/or disposal of the Hazardous Materials.
3. Only stage/respond when instructed to do so by BCFD's Incident Command.
4. Under no circumstances should members respond directly into the scene of the incident without the guidance of BCFD's Incident Command.
5. Use extreme caution at any suspected Hazardous Materials situation. Consider all suspected Hazardous Materials dangerous and do not handle or remove.
6. Alert BCFD to any known injured persons.

Member

When investigating a situation to determine if a Hazardous Materials incident has occurred:

1. Establish the degree of safety precautions necessary. If safe to do so, make a preliminary evaluation of the incident and attempt to identify the type of Hazardous Material. Be guided by instructions from:
 - 1.1. The Communications Section,
 - 1.2. Labels, placards or shipping papers on the carrier, and/or
 - 1.3. Information received from the driver, employee, facility staff member, shipping papers, safety data sheets, etc.
2. Attempt to verify:
 - 2.1. Exact location of the incident and affected area(s).
 - 2.2. Hazardous Materials involved (e.g., information on labels, markings, numbers on vehicles and/or containers, etc.). It is best to utilize the ERG when gathering this information.
 - 2.3. Amount of substance.
 - 2.4. Time of occurrence and, in case of a fire, the length of time it has been burning.

- 2.5. Source of spill or accident.
- 2.6. Whether there is danger to the public.
- 2.7. Actions initiated or necessary (e.g., other agency personnel required).
- 2.8. Wind direction.
3. Advise the Communications Section of the nature and extent of the incident and the assistance necessary to alleviate the problem (BCFD, CHEMTREC, etc.).
4. In cases of accidents, where there is a question whether or not a substance is a Hazardous Material, CHEMTREC may be contacted at 1-800-424-9300 (24 hour toll free number) for possible substance identification. Provide CHEMTREC the following necessary information:
 - 4.1. Your location and telephone number.
 - 4.2. Location of accident.
 - 4.3. Name of the product and shipper.
 - 4.4. If known, the color and number of any labels on the carrier or cargo.
 - 4.5. Weather conditions.
 - 4.6. Type of environment (populated, rural, business, etc.).
 - 4.7. Availability of water supply.

Supervisor

1. Respond to the scene and assist members investigating potential Hazardous Materials incidents.
2. Be guided by the direction of the BCFD's Incident Commander.
3. Isolate the area and establish a Command Post.

Dispatcher, Communications Unit

1. Ascertain all relevant facts available regarding an incident involving Hazardous Materials at the time the initial call is received.
2. Inform the Shift Commander, Communications Unit, of the situation.
3. Dispatch requested BPD resources when requested by BCFD.

Shift Commander, Communicators Unit

1. Immediately contact BCFD to respond to the scene.
2. Dispatch the following to the staging area:
 - 2.1. Emergency Services Unit (ESU), if available;
 - 2.2. Shift Commander of the district of occurrence; and
 - 2.3. Sufficient back-up units that are equipped with CBRN PPE;
3. Notify the following departmental personnel, as appropriate, of the incident:
 - 3.1. Chief, Patrol Division;
 - 3.2. District Commander of the district of occurrence;
 - 3.3. Chief, Special Operations Division;
 - 3.4. Duty Officer;
 - 3.5. Supervisor, Aviation Unit; and
 - 3.6. Chief, Media Relations Section (the nature of the incident shall govern the necessity for immediate notification).

Commanding Officer, Tactical Section

1. When extended outer perimeter control by uniformed personnel is required, after consultation with the Incident Commander, relieve district uniformed personnel of outer perimeter control, as manpower resources permit, so that district personnel can resume normal patrol duties.
2. Arrange for the on-station relief of outer perimeter control personnel as conditions warrant.

Medical Waste SituationsMember

1. Upon discovery of or receipt of a call for service for material you believe to be Medical Waste, do not seize or otherwise handle the material.

EXCEPTION: Submit syringes related to arrests and seizures, which are clearly CDS related paraphernalia, to the Evidence Control Unit (ECU) in accordance with procedures established in Policy 1402, *Handling of Controlled Dangerous Substances*.

2. Notify the Communications Section of the initial severity of the situation.
3. Provide aid for injured persons.

4. Request the following personnel respond:
 - 4.1. Supervisor, and
 - 4.2. Emergency Services Unit, if available.
5. When appropriate, isolate the area and establish a Command Post.
6. When necessary, notify the Crime Scene Unit to respond to photograph the scene.
7. Maintain a chronological log of events and complete an Incident Report, Form 8, recording in detail the circumstances surrounding the discovery and recovery of the material.

Supervisor

1. Respond to the scene and evaluate the situation.
2. Notify the Shift Commander to respond to the scene whenever there are large quantities of Medical Waste that cannot be handled by ESU or the waste problem has more serious ramifications.

Shift Commander

Where large quantities of Medical Waste cannot be handled by ESU, or when the Medical Waste problem has more serious ramifications, request the on-site response of the BCFD's HAZMAT Unit.

Emergency Services Unit

1. Determine whether the quantity of Medical Waste can be safely recovered and stored using departmental equipment and facilities. If necessary, request the on-site response of the BCFD's HAZMAT Unit or Emergency Response Team from the Department of the Environment, State of Maryland, via the Communications Division.
2. Whenever possible, safely recover and transport the Medical Waste material to the ESU Chemical Holding Room (6400 Pulaski Highway) in accordance with existing procedures and applicable law.
 - 2.1. Complete a Property Receipt, Form 56 and attach it to the appropriate container.
 - 2.2. Make the required entry into the ESU Log Book.
3. In cases of injury from or significant exposure to potentially contaminated Medical Waste, immediately notify the Emergency Response Team from the Department of the Environment, State of Maryland, via the Communications Section to initiate recovery and testing of the materials as soon as practicable.

Illegal Dumping of Unknown Waste**Primary Unit**

1. Conduct a thorough preliminary evaluation of each unknown waste dumping and attempt to identify the type of material dumped.
2. Advise the Communications Section of the location, nature, and extent of the waste, and the assistance needed to alleviate the problem.
3. Notify the proper agencies in keeping with the following guidelines:
 - 3.1. If waste has been dumped in a sewer or storm drain, contact the Department of Public Works Complaint Desk via 311. This number is operational 24 hours a day. Also contact the Fire Department at 410-396-5689.
 - 3.2. If the waste is dumped in a City Park, call the City Hall Operator at 410-396-3100. The City Hall operator will notify the appropriate personnel at the Department of Parks and Recreation.
 - 3.3. If the waste contains only common household items, notify the Department of Public Works Customer Service Division via 311.

RESCISSION

Remove and recycle/destroy General Order G-6, *Hazardous Material Incidents*, 10 February 1995.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.