

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION RESPONSE

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412 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION RESPONSE

412.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To provide Columbia police personnel with awareness level guidelines in responding to events involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons (CBRN) as well as hazardous materials (haz-mat) and/or weapons of mass destructions (WMD).

412.2 POLICY

The Columbia Police Department shall respond to incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons as well as hazardous materials and/or weapons of mass destruction in a manner that maximizes both officer safety as well as the safety of others. Because the fire department has expertise in handling such incidents, they will generally be in charge of the scene. The Columbia Police Department's response will be to secure the scene, control vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to assist the fire department and any other agencies as may be appropriate.

This policy will be used in conjunction with the "All Hazard Plan/Critical Incident Response Manual". When necessary the Incident Command System (ICS) will be activated following the policies, procedures and guidelines set forth in the All Hazard Plan/Critical Incident Response Manual.

412.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DEFINED

Hazardous material - A substance which by its nature, containment and reactivity, has the capability of inflicting harm to people, other living organisms, property or the environment during exposure. Hazardous materials are characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, explosive, oxidizing, asphyxiating, pathogenic, allergenic, biohazardous, or radioactive and pose a threat to health when improperly managed (see generally § 260.500(5), RSMo; 10 CSR 24-2.010(7)).

412.4 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE PROCEDURE

412.4.1 RESPONSE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITUATIONS

A. DUTIES

1. First Officer On The Scene

- a. Have the dispatcher contact the Columbia Fire Department (if not already notified).
- b. Notify the shift or the on-duty supervisor.
- c. Establish an initial perimeter. Access will be limited to those services and personnel responding to the hazardous materials events.
- d. Make contact with the caller and/or senior person in charge.

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2. Shift Or On-Duty Supervisor/Watch Commander
 - a. Respond to the scene and determine the nature of the call.
 - b. Contact the fire department/incident command post.
 - c. Implement any precautions established by the fire department such as scene isolation, protection, crowd control, traffic control, search and rescues, evacuation, etc.
 - d. Contact/notify the patrol commander. The patrol commander will be responsible for notifying other bureau commanders and the chief of police.
3. Calling For Additional Resources
 - a. The patrol commander on the scene should determine if there is adequate manpower to address whatever police action is necessary. The on-duty supervisor or the patrol commander should be immediately notified and advised of any need for additional manpower.
 - b. Based upon the assessment of on scene personnel, a supervisor may request a callout of off-duty personnel. In all such instances, the supervisor authorizing the callout shall immediately have the chief of police notified.
4. Evacuation Policy
 - a. Except when determined to be a matter of public safety, the policy of this department is to request voluntary compliance to requests for evacuation and not to evict persons forcibly from their homes or businesses. In cases involving the mentally and/or physically impaired, those unable to understand, including children, etc., proper action will be dictated by the circumstances.
 - b. Non-residents and those without lawful business in the area may be required to leave if deemed necessary.
 - c. Properly credentialed members of the media may be allowed access to the area, at the discretion of the fire department incident commander and after they have been fully advised of the hazards involved.
5. Evacuation Procedure
 - a. The incident commander will determine the notification procedure.
 - b. It may include utilizing the police car P.A. system, door-to-door notifications, etc.
 - c. Radio and/or television stations may be requested, via the incident commander or their designate, to assist as may be appropriate. However, such broadcasts alone are not sufficient.
 - d. Evacuation should be approached in a calm, professional manner that will inspire confidence by the public and prevent panic.
 - e. Residents should be advised to take their pets with them and lock their homes.
 - f. If fire or explosion is possible, gas and electricity should be turned off at the meters if possible.

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- g. Evacuees should be directed to a designated evacuation center or assembly point if established.
- h. Time permitting, officers should make every effort to log names and addresses of persons refusing to evacuate. This will assist in any future rescue efforts.
- i. Every reasonable effort will be made to safeguard the homes and property of those evacuated.

6. Traffic Control

- a. Major routes should be established and maintained. Private vehicles will be prevented from entering the area and will be removed if necessary.
- b. Roadblocks and alternate routes should be established as may be necessary.

7. Crowd Control

- a. Crowd control measures should be implemented as soon as possible and as may be appropriate.

8. Radioactive and/or Other Hazardous Materials

- a. Officers will not handle such materials, however, they shall protect the scene from unauthorized persons.
- b. The fire department shall be promptly notified.
- c. Evacuation and other procedures should be determined by the fire department. If contact with the fire department is not readily available, all persons shall be kept back at least 500 feet and out of smoke, fumes or dust.

B. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CARRIER INCIDENTS

- 1. Hazardous materials can be found at fixed site facilities and in commercial transportation (e.g., trucking, railroad, barge, airline, etc.). Additionally, they can be found at clandestine laboratories, illegal hazardous waste sites and in the average home. The proper response to a hazardous material incident is crucial for the safety of those responding as well as the public. The actions of emergency response personnel during the first several minutes of an incident can determine the outcome of the event.
- 2. Never promise or agree to arrange for site cleanup or take possession of any chemicals encountered.
- 3. The Emergency Response Guidebook is on PowerDMS and accessible to all employees via MCT or mobile device/cell phone. This guide provides a brief description of the types of hazards and examples of hazardous material placards and general recommendations when arriving at the scene. The support services commander or designee shall be responsible for coordinating with the accreditation manager to ensure the most recent guidebook, available in electronic format, is available on PowerDMS.

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4. Upon arrival at the scene of an incident involving hazardous materials, if possible, the officer should attempt to make preliminary identification of the material on the basis of the placards visible from a safe distance. Additional information may also be obtained by advising the dispatcher of the placard number located on the cargo vehicle involved. The placard number can be entered into the REJIS computer system and additional information (e.g., full name of chemical or substance, description of chemical, how to handle, if evacuation is warranted and clean-up procedures) can be obtained.
5. The responding officer shall ensure that a shift or on duty supervisor has been notified of any hazardous material type calls.
6. Shipping papers are the responsibility of the driver/operator of the vehicle. The location of the shipping papers will depend on the method of shipment. For highway transport vehicles, the shipping papers are required to be within arms length of the driver when seat belted in their seat. This means they could be in a driver's side door pocket, on a clipboard behind the driver, etc.
7. Procedures
 - a. Upon approach, stop short of the incident site.
 - b. Approach from an upwind, uphill or upstream direction. Stay out of low-lying areas.
 - c. If possible, position the police vehicle headed away from the incident site. Look for placards, labels or a UN number.
 - d. Make a note of container shapes, possible escaping product and the terrain. Avoid any chemical plume, smoke or dust emitting from the product.
 - e. Maintain a safe distance from involved materials. Do not try to touch, taste or smell any hazardous material.
 - f. Have the dispatcher notify the fire department to respond if not already done.
 - g. Have the dispatcher notify a supervisor if not already done.
 - h. If the driver is available, ask to see the shipping papers and obtain other pertinent information.
 - i. Do not attempt to make any rescues, protect property or the environment.
 - j. Do not eat, drink or smoke at the scene.
 - k. Do not open any containers, attempt to clean up any spillage or enter a vehicle's cargo area.
 - l. Isolate the leak or spill area immediately for at least 150 feet in all directions (expand this distance as may be appropriate) and keep unnecessary people away.
 - m. Take charge of the scene until the fire department arrives.
 - n. Fire agencies will establish an incident commander who will assume command of the scene from a hazardous materials perspective with police personnel handling traffic/crowd control, reporting, criminal investigation, etc.
 - o. Convey to all responding assist units and agencies information such as the direction of approach, name of material(s) involved if known or the hazard class (e.g., flammable liquid, corrosive or radioactive), placard and UN information, container type and current conditions, if anyone was exposed to the chemical, etc.

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C. CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND ILLEGAL DUMP SITES

1. Because of the unstable nature of hazardous materials at clandestine laboratories and illegal dumpsites, as well as the possible existence of armed traps, extreme caution must be exercised.
2. Do not attempt to turn off any clandestine lab equipment.
3. Do not touch, move or jostle any equipment and/or containers.
4. Once you have identified the site as a clandestine lab or illegal hazardous waste dumpsite, retreat to a safe distance (150 feet; expand as necessary), establish a perimeter, detain any witnesses or suspects and secure the scene.
5. Immediately notify a supervisor and the patrol commander and protect the scene until their arrival. The commander will be responsible for notifying the chief of police as may be appropriate.
6. Only personnel certified for clandestine laboratories will be allowed into the lab or dumpsite to collect evidence and render the site secure. For clandestine labs, notification should be made to the Operations Support Commander to organize and mobilize qualified personnel.
7. The certified lab personnel will notify DEA of the lab or dump site location and make the arrangements for cleanup.
8. The certified lab personnel will complete all necessary papers to be forwarded to the DEA.

D. RESPONDING TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD) SITUATIONS

1. The proper response to a WMD incident begins with the recognition of certain factors by an on-scene officer or a dispatcher that a WMD incident has occurred.
2. Police personnel should be alert to calls received concerning large numbers of sick cases at one location, such as malls, arenas, theatres, etc. These could be indicators of a potential WMD incident.
3. In addition to obtaining routine call information, complaint evaluators need to obtain information such as the number of victims, signs and symptoms of the victims, any possible clouds or pungent odors, description of any visible evidence, weather conditions at the scene, etc.
4. Officers responding to a potential WMD incident should:
 - a. Use extreme caution.
 - b. Position themselves at a safe distance; at least 600 feet. If the device is believed to contain explosives, increase the distance to at least 1,000 feet.

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- c. Beware of possible secondary devices; either explosive or chemical in nature.
- d. Do not enter a potentially contaminated area without appropriate personal protective gear.
- e. Be alert to reports of victim's suffering a variety of symptoms for no apparent reasons.
- f. Look for large numbers of victims who may be contaminated. Issue verbal commands to the victims to remain where they are until contacted by emergency personnel.
- g. When the scene is rendered safe by the appropriate authority, locate and preserve, in place, as much evidence as possible. Officers shall work with the lead investigative agency in the collection and preservation of evidence.
- h. Upon arrival at the scene, the officer should immediately notify the dispatcher of the circumstances and advise a safe access route and recommended staging areas. The officer should also ensure that a supervisor has been notified of the incident. The supervisor or watch commander will be responsible for ensuring that the patrol commander is notified. The patrol commander will be responsible for notifying other bureau commanders and the chief of police.
- i. Control the movement of all potential victims until decontamination can be completed.
- j. Responding personnel must accept the fact that victims of a WMD incident who are mobile may pose a health hazard to both rescuers and others. Initial arriving officers should determine what transpired without coming into close contact with the victims and without getting too close to the scene.
- k. Responding officers shall be responsible for establishing a perimeter around the "warm zone."
- l. The incident commander on the scene shall ensure that there are sufficient officers on scene to handle the situation.
- m. Control any walking casualties by giving verbal commands to move into a designated area either upwind or uphill from the scene.
- n. Haz-mat technicians will establish "hot and warm zones" within the perimeter. Fire service personnel will be responsible for the decontamination of victims and emergency response personnel.
- o. The initial highest-ranking member of the fire service should initiate the incident command system and will establish a single command post.
- p. The initial highest-ranking member of the Columbia Police Department will respond to the incident command post and assist in establishing a unified command structure.
- q. The primary role of police personnel will be that of securing the perimeter and the preservation of evidence.
- r. Police personnel shall not enter a "warm or hot zone" without authorization and without proper Personnel Protective Gear.
- s. The appropriate outside agencies such as the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Boone County Sheriff's Department, etc. shall be notified as may be appropriate.
- t. The fire agency official on the scene is responsible for the coordination of responding emergency support from other fire agencies and emergency medical services.
- u. The incident commander on the scene shall ensure that the notification of the incident is made to the FBI. Although the FBI is the lead investigative agency,

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command and control issues, including the treatment and transport of casualties will be the responsibility of the local jurisdiction affected.

v. The incident commander on the scene will be responsible for coordinating all police activities at the scene including medical care for police personnel, managing staffing levels, making relief arrangements, etc.

w. Out-of-state response.

i. Due to the nature of WMD incidents and the equipment necessary to handle them, the cooperation and coordination of surrounding jurisdictions is of paramount importance.

ii. As approved by the chief of police, assets from the Columbia Police Department may be deployed to assist other jurisdictions.

x. Media releases

i. Release of information regarding the WMD incident shall be governed by department policies pertaining to the release of information.

ii. The Public Information Officer or designate shall respond to the incident command post to determine what information can be released to the news media without jeopardizing the investigation.

E. ANTHRAX/BIO-HAZARD INCIDENTS

1. Communications

a. In the event of a call indicating the presence of anthrax or any other potential biological hazard, Boone County Joint Communications may dispatch a police officer in addition to the fire department.

b. When possible and feasible, the dispatchers will not give specific information over the radio. Responding personnel may instead be advised by telephone or MCT of the potential biological hazard and all other pertinent information.

2. Initial arrival

a. The initial approach to scene will be handled as described previously in this policy when responding to scenes involving hazardous materials or WMD.

b. Responding officers shall ensure that a supervisor has been made aware of the call and request that a supervisor responds to the scene.

c. Responding personnel should not immediately enter the location of possible contamination.

d. Upon arrival at the scene, police and fire personnel will determine if a credible threat exists.

e. Fire personnel will be responsible for determining what action should be taken with respect to those individuals who are suspected of contamination.

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3. Response/Investigation

a. Police personnel should attempt to gather the following types of information:

- i. List of people who have had contact or have handled the package, letter, substance, etc.
- ii. Note any signs or symptoms demonstrated by any individual(s) who may have been contaminated.
- iii. Determine how and when they came into possession of the package, letter, substance, etc.

b. The above information will be provided to the supervisor who responds to the scene. The supervisor shall consult with the fire department to determine if the situation warrants further assessment.

- i. If it is believed that the substance is not a hazard, the officer at the scene should advise the complainant(s) that the substance is not hazardous.
- ii. If the incident commander believe a hazard does exist, the fire department will contact the appropriate personnel to respond and evaluate the situation.
- iii. If personnel determines the substance is potentially hazardous or possibly anthrax, they will notify the FBI who will determine if the substance should be sent to the State of Missouri Department of Health Laboratory for analysis.
- iv. If the substance is to be sent to the lab, appropriate personnel will package and transport the substance.
- v. If the substance is not suspicious and/or a hazard, they will recommend that the fire department properly remove the substance or advise the complainant to contact a private company for removal.
- vi. Unless otherwise instructed by proper authority, Columbia police personnel will not handle or seize suspicious and/or hazardous substances nor will such substances be forwarded to this department's evidence custodian for storage.

F. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR FIRST RESPONDERS TO CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS (CBRN) AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:

1. Unless exigent circumstances exist, only PPE issued by the department should be used by department personnel in performance of their duties.
2. Department personnel who are issued PPE should receive training in the proper use and care of the equipment prior to use.
3. PPE normally consists of the following items:
 - a. One Gas Mask
 - b. One Air Purifying Cartridge
 - c. One Tyvek Suit
 - d. One N95 mask

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- e. One pair safety glasses
 - f. Nitrile gloves
4. Each employee issued PPE shall be responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the equipment.
 5. Each employee is responsible for promptly reporting to their supervisor the expenditure of filters, damage to or lost equipment, unserviceable equipment, and the need for replacement gear. The supervisor will ensure the employee receives replacement PPE as warranted.
 6. PPE will be stored so as to be readily accessible by department personnel.
 7. During homeland security and/or other conditions, specific instructions relating to the carrying of such equipment will be issued on an as needed basis. However, the equipment will be readily available for use as needed.
 8. In-service training relating to the issuance, wearing and maintenance of PPE as well as a review of all applicable department policies and procedures will be conducted on a yearly basis. Training shall be documented and noted in the department training files.

G. REPORTS AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS

1. A police report will be written on all hazardous material and/or WMD incidents.
2. Unless otherwise authorized by a bureau commander, all such reports will be completed prior to the officer ending their tour of duty.
3. In all incidents involving hazardous materials and/or WMD, the patrol commander shall be notified by the on-duty supervisor or Watch Commander as soon as reasonably practical and prior to the supervisor ending their tour of duty.
4. The patrol commander will be responsible for notifying the other Bureau Commanders and the chief of police.

412.5 TRAINING

Awareness level training will be developed by TRU and placed on PowerDMS for annual review by all sworn personnel. This training will include a review and familiarization of the Emergency Response Guidebook located on PowerDMS.