



# Colorado Springs Police Department

## General Order

### 1223 Hazardous Materials Incidents

#### Section 1200 – Critical Incident Functions

Effective Date: 5/6/2021

Supersedes Date: 2/26/2013

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## **.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this directive is to establish policy and procedures for police actions, in incidents concerning hazardous materials.

## **.02 Cross Reference**

[GO 1026 Staff and Personnel Notifications](#)

[GO 1200 Tactical Enforcement Unit \(TEU\)](#)

[GO 1206 Bomb Threats and Explosives Incidents](#)

[GO 1220 Incident Command System](#)

[DL-134-02 Patrol Bureau](#)

## **.03 Discussion**

The Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) is often called upon to respond to emergency situations requiring the expertise of other governmental and private agencies. The proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials is one such situation. When required to handle hazardous waste or other hazardous materials, officers will follow these rules, promulgated pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Colorado SB § 172, and the City Code of Colorado Springs.

## **.04 Policy**

Due to Presidential directives to be NIMS compliant, it is recommended that a unified command structure be initiated for all hazardous materials responses. In most situations, the police department response in hazardous substance incidents will be to secure the scene, control vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and assist the fire department and other city departments; however, there are situations where the police department will be designated as the lead agency. The fire department is the designated Emergency Response Authority for the City of Colorado Springs and, as such, will most likely be in charge at the scene of hazardous substance

incidents. The fire department has expertise in the handling of hazardous materials and compliance with federal regulations.

## **.05 Definitions**

*Hazardous Waste:* A waste is any substance that a person intends to get rid of, or a substance that is no longer usable for intended purposes. A hazardous waste is any waste which appears on the EPA's lists of hazardous waste, or which meets any of the following EPA criteria: toxicity, corrosiveness, reactivity, or ignitability.

*Hazardous Materials:* A hazardous material means a substance or material capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property and includes, but is not limited to, all petrochemicals, liquid gases, compound gases, acids, corrosives and other flammable, toxic, or noxious substances.

## **.10 Non-Emergency Incident**

If disposal is needed, when no hazardous discharge to the environment has occurred or is imminent, the CSPD should instruct the owner to call the El Paso County Health Department, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for advice. The owner can get an emergency permit to dispose of hazardous waste, if the disposal must be expedited for emergency reasons. The owner should handle as many of the necessary arrangements as time and circumstances allow. Obviously, each case must be handled with due regard to public safety.

## **.15 Emergency Permit Number**

In the exceptionally rare circumstance, the CSPD must assume responsibility for disposing of a waste, the CDPHE Health must be called in order to get an emergency permit number. This should not occur without first contacting the Regional Explosives Unit.

The contact telephone number is [REDACTED]. If no contact is made using the previous number, call mobile number [REDACTED].

If the CDPHE advises that no emergency permit number is required, the department employee will document this on a memorandum that includes the name and title of the CDPHE employee contacted, the property disposed of, and the method of disposal. The memorandum will be sent, through channels, to the City Attorney's Office, Environmental Division. CDPHE can help facilitate disposal at a [REDACTED].

## **.20 Command Post**

When notified of a hazardous substance incident, the area supervisor will be dispatched to the fire department command post, which may be identified by a flashing green light. The fire department incident commander will have command of the incident and will advise the police department's area supervisor which precautions need to be taken, including:

- Scene protection/Isolation
- Traffic routing
- Crowd control
- Escorting necessary non-law enforcement emergency equipment
- General search and rescue
- Evacuation notification of threatened areas

## **.30 Evacuation**

The decision to evacuate an area, in a hazardous substance incident, is generally that of the fire department. Implementation of the fire department's decision to evacuate is the police department's responsibility. If no fire department officials are present to make that decision, CSPD command or supervisory personnel are empowered to make such a decision.

The policy of this department is to request voluntary compliance to requests for evacuation, and not to evict persons forcibly from their homes and businesses. In cases involving the mentally or physically ill, those unable to understand, including children, etc., proper action will be dictated by the circumstances. Non-residents, and those without lawful business in the area, may be required to leave, if deemed necessary. Properly credentialed members of the press must be allowed access to the area, after they are fully advised of the hazards involved.

## **.33 Evacuation Procedure**

The notification procedure will be decided by the ranking CSPD officer at the scene. It may include one or both of the following methods: car P.A. system, Emergency Notification System (ENS), or door to door by officers on foot. Radio and television stations may be requested, via the watch commander or Public Information Officer (PIO), to assist by broadcasting evacuation requests, but broadcasts alone are not sufficient. Evacuation should be approached in a calm, professional manner that will inspire confidence by the public and prevent panic. Residents should be advised to take their pets with them and to lock their homes. If fire or explosion is possible, gas and electricity should be turned off at the meters. Evacuees should be directed to a designated evacuation center. Time permitting, officers should note names and addresses of

persons refusing to evacuate. This will assist in later civil or criminal court action, and perhaps future rescue.

### **.35 Care for the Property of Those Evacuated**

Every reasonable effort must be made to safeguard the homes and property of those evacuated. This includes limiting access to the area and, if possible, patrolling to prevent looting and vandalism.

### **.40 Traffic Control**

Major routes should be established and maintained. Private vehicles will be prevented from entering the area and will be removed if blocking emergency equipment. Roadblocks and alternate routes should be established, as needed.

### **.50 Crowd Control**

Crowd control measures should be implemented, as soon as possible, to keep spectators away from the evacuated area, as well as from the scene of the incident. This will reduce the possibility of looting and other crimes in the affected area and minimize interference and injury.

### **.70 Handling of Radioactive Materials**

The El Paso County Department of Health is responsible for the supervision and oversight of storage of all radioactive materials within the City of Colorado Springs. Radiation detection equipment for establishing safety zones is located in stations of the fire department and at the department of health.

Officers will not handle known or suspected radioactive materials, in any way, but will protect the scene from unauthorized citizens and stand by for the Colorado Springs Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team and the department of health personnel, who will be contacted by the communications center.

Evacuation procedures and distances should be determined by radiation specialists from the agencies. If specialists are not readily available, keep all persons back at least 500 feet and out of smoke, fumes, or dust.