



# GOODYEAR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

## POLICY 3.31 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

Effective:  
10/09/2020

Replaces:  
12/21/2012

Approved:  


### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. The purpose of this policy is to assist Department personnel in organizing and operating effectively under emergency conditions in hazardous material incidents. Department personnel need to be vigilant for criminal responsibility in any hazardous materials incident.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

1. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL (HazMat) - Includes, without limitation, hazardous material, a regulated substance, a pollutant, a contaminant or as outlined in ARS § 26-301(8).
2. HOT ZONE - The area where exposure to the hazardous material is most likely to cause injury or death.
3. COLD ZONE - The area where there is no exposure to the hazardous material.
4. WARM ZONE - The area between the hot and cold zones where exposure to the hazardous material is at a lower concentration level where injury may occur but death is not likely. Decontamination of employees and equipment occurs in this area.

### 3. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

1. Employees may encounter situations involving suspected hazardous materials, such as at the scene of a traffic collision, chemical spill or fire. When employees come into contact with a suspected hazardous material, certain steps should be taken to protect themselves and other persons.
  - A. The fire department is the agency trained and equipped to properly respond and mitigate most hazardous materials and biohazards. Responders should not perform tasks or use equipment absent proper training. A responder entering the area may require decontamination before he/she is allowed to depart the scene and should be evaluated by appropriate technicians and medical professionals for signs of exposure.
  - B. While responding to a Hazardous Materials incident, all police personnel will act in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 1910.120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HazWoper), which requires the presence of the Incident Command/ Unified Command structure.
  - C. The following steps should be considered at any scene involving suspected hazardous materials:
    1. Attempt to identify the type of hazardous material. Identification can be determined by placard, driver's manifest or statements from the person transporting the material.
    2. Notify the fire department.
    3. Provide first aid to injured parties if it can be done safely and without contamination.
    4. Begin the assessment for evacuation of the immediate and surrounding areas dependent on the material. Voluntary evacuation should be considered. Depending on the material, mandatory evacuation may be necessary.
    5. Responders should remain uphill and upwind of the hazard until a zone of entry and a decontamination area is established.

### 2. ORGANIZING EVACUATION EFFORTS

3. In most cases, it is anticipated that the Fire Department will be first to determine that an evacuation will be necessary.

A. INCIDENT COMMAND

1. It is imperative to implement Incident Command System (ICS) procedures for effective communication between the Police and Fire Departments. In most hazardous material incident evacuations, the Fire Department will be in command and the Police Department will act as a supporting agency.
2. In such cases, the Fire Department will notify the Police Department that an evacuation will be required.

B. MAJOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

1. The Goodyear Major Emergency Response Plan provides for the eventual commitment, if necessary, of personnel and equipment from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, the Arizona National Guard, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, as well as other services outside the City of Goodyear.

C. RE-ENTRY

1. Only the Fire Department incident commander can release an area for re-entry after it has been evacuated.

D. EVACUATION OF HOT AND WARM ZONES

1. Fire Department personnel equipped with PPE will evacuate hot and warm zones. Police personnel will not assist in any evacuations of hot or warm zones without wearing the appropriate level of PPE, provided by the Fire Department or Police Department.

E. EVACUATION OF COLD ZONE

1. Police personnel may assist or lead evacuations in the cold zone. The number of positions assigned to an evacuation sector will depend upon conditions within that sector.
  1. The sector leader will begin to assign individual officers specific evacuation locations when there is imminent danger that innocent civilians will be injured or killed.
  2. A total of 6 officers represent the ideal span of control for evacuation sector leaders.
  3. Officers will be deployed in teams.
    - a. Each team will be identified by a specific area (i.e., North Evacuation Sector, South Evacuation Sector, etc.).
    - b. Officers assigned to evacuation teams will report to their respective evacuation sector leader every 30 minutes to provide updates to their status in the evacuation.
    - c. Once the evacuation teams have completed their assigned evacuations, the officers will immediately report to their evacuation sector leader with the results of their evacuations and await further assignment.
    - d. An operational map detailing geographical conditions successful and unsuccessful evacuations will be supplied to COMMAND as soon as possible.
    - e. Use of Fire Department maps and multi-residential maps are suggested.

F. DOCUMENTATION

1. Each evacuation sector leader will complete the Evacuation Assignment form (attached to this policy), which details the completion of the assignment to evacuate a specific area by a team. The evacuation sector leader, in charge of a specific area, will utilize the Evacuation Control form (attached to this policy). This form details pertinent information, such as shelter sites, evacuation warnings given, and the area of evacuation.
2. All the documents and forms completed will be forwarded to the sector leader prior to securing for that shift, and will be submitted to with the Department Report.

4. PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY

1. On a hazardous materials incident when personnel are operating in uncertain conditions, it is essential to conduct periodic assessments of units and personnel. Accountability should be done at all times. In addition to registering units as they arrive on scene, a designated law enforcement officer should keep track of all personnel entering the Hot/Warm zones, complete periodic communication checks with the personnel, and record the following:
  - A. Personnel and unit designations
  - B. Medical monitoring of the members on the entry team
  - C. Medical monitoring of personnel involved in decontamination
  - D. Time each member goes on air
  - E. Time entry team enters the Hot Zone
  - F. Amount of time the entry team is in the Hot Zone
  - G. Time entry team exits the Hot Zone and enters Decon corridor
  - H. Time each member comes off of air
  - I. Cumulative time that the member is on air

## **5. REPORTING EXPOSURE**

1. Department personnel who believe that they have been exposed to a hazardous material shall immediately report the exposure to a supervisor. Each exposure shall be documented by the employee in an employee memorandum, which shall be forwarded via chain of command to the Division Commander. Should the affected employee be unable to document the exposure for any reason, it shall be the responsibility of the notified supervisor to complete the memorandum.
2. Injury or illness caused or believed to be caused from exposure to hazardous materials shall be reported the same as any other on-duty injury or illness, in addition to a crime report or incident report.

## **6. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The Watch Commander, or Patrol Sergeant in the absence of the Watch Commander, will link in person with the Fire Department Incident Commander for Police/Fire coordination of the public safety response.
2. When a supervisor has been informed that an employee has been exposed to a hazardous material, he/she shall ensure that immediate medical treatment is obtained and appropriate action is taken to treat the exposure. To ensure the safety of employees, safety equipment is available through supervisory personnel. Safety items not maintained by the Department will be obtained through the fire department.