



ORONO POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Protect with Vigilance & Serve with Compassion and Excellence

Subject:	Hazardous Material Response	Policy #	O-54
Effective Date:	August 18, 2025	Review Cycle:	2 Years
Distribution:	All Sworn Personnel	# of pages:	2
MLEAP:	8.10		
	<i>Rescinds All Previous Policies Related To This Current Policy</i>		
Issuing Authority:	Chief of Police Daniel Merrill		

I. POLICY

The Orono Police Department' policy is to respond to hazardous material incidents and provide the maximum amount of safety to agency personnel and the community. Hazardous materials present a potential harm to employees resulting from their exposure.

II. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines and procedures for Orono police personnel to follow when dealing with a hazardous materials incident.

III. DEFINITIONS

Hazardous Material: Is a substance which by its nature, containment and reactivity, has the capability of inflicting harm during exposure; it is characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant or strong sensitizer and thereby posing a threat to health when improperly managed.

IV. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

MLEAP 8.10

- A. Employees may encounter situations involving suspected hazardous materials, such as; at the scene of a traffic accident, chemical spill, clandestine drug labs, or fire. When employees encounter a suspected hazardous material, certain steps should be taken to protect themselves and citizens:
 1. Attempt to identify the type of hazardous substance while maintaining a safe distance (Identification can be determined by placard, driver's manifest or statements from the person transporting).
 2. Police vehicles should be parked up wind from the hazardous material.
 3. Notify the fire department.
 4. Consider activation of Incident Command System (ICS) protocols.
 5. Provide first-aid for injured parties if it can be done safely and without contamination.
 6. Begin evacuation of the immediate area and surrounding areas, dependent on the substance. Voluntary evacuation should be considered; however, depending on the substance, mandatory evacuation may be necessary.

V. REPORTING EXPOSURE(S)

- A. 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 that shall be forwarded via chain of command to the Chief of Police. 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.
- B. 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. Department policy *A-34 Employee Safety and Crash Prevention* shall be followed regarding reporting exposures/injuries/illness.

VI. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

When a supervisor has been informed that an employee has been exposed to a hazardous material(s), the supervisor shall ensure that immediate medical treatment is obtained, and appropriate action is taken to lessen the exposure. Supervisor responsibility shall conform to *A-34 Employee Safety and Crash Prevention* policy. 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.