



<b>WRITTEN DIRECTIVE</b>	No.	PD15-2013	Page:	1 of 5
	Subject:	Effective Date: 12-09-15		
	HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS	Supercedes/Amends: PD12-2013		
		Reference: 46.3.4 ADDENDUM		



## I. Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to provide operational guidelines and procedures to be followed in the event of hazardous material incidents.

## II. Policy

It shall be the policy of the Lynchburg Police Department to minimize personal injury and damage to property in all incidents involving hazardous materials through proper containment and evacuation procedures.

## III. Procedure

### A. DEFINITIONS

1. *Hazardous Materials* -- substances and materials in quantities and forms that:
  - a. may pose an unreasonable risk to health, safety, property or the environment when used, transported, stored or disposed of
  - b. may include materials which are solid, liquid or gas , hazardous substance, hazardous waste, marine pollutants and elevated temperature material.
2. *Hazardous Materials Incident* -- an incident involving one or more hazardous materials that may be leaking, spilled, burning or with potential for imminent release to the endangerment of life, property and/or the environment.
3. *CHEMTREC* -- an acronym for the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, a public service by the Chemical Manufacturer Association to provide immediate information to public safety officials facing a hazardous materials emergency (see *Addendum*).
4. *HAZMAT* -- specially equipped hazardous materials response teams located throughout the state, specializing in hazardous materials emergencies (see *Addendum*).

**B. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

1. Types of hazardous materials generally include:
  - a. explosives
  - b. radioactive materials
  - c. etiological (disease-causing) agents
  - d. flammable materials (liquids or solids)
  - e. combustible liquids or solids
  - f. poisons or poisonous gases
  - g. oxidizing or corrosive materials
  - h. irritants
  - i. compressed gases.
2. Possible dangers associated with hazardous materials exposure include:
  - a. fire
  - b. explosion
  - c. poisoning
  - d. asphyxiation
  - e. freezing.

**C. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IDENTIFICATION**

1. Hazardous materials can be identified by means of:
  - a. placard and identification number
  - b. shipping documents
  - c. markings on shipping containers
  - d. driver statements
  - e. United Nations four digit number
  - f. current *Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guidebook* (all patrol vehicles are issued a copy)
  - g. contacting the shipper.

2. CHEMTREC may be contacted by supervisors for assistance when in doubt about the identification of a suspected hazardous material (see *Addendum*).
3. Supervisors should attempt to provide CHEMTREC with as much of the following information as possible:
  - a. name of the caller and call-back number
  - b. location of problem
  - c. shipper or manufacturer
  - d. container type
  - e. rail car or truck number
  - f. carrier name
  - g. consignee
  - h. local conditions.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES AT HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

1. Lynchburg Police Officers may assume command of a hazardous materials incident until the arrival of a Lynchburg Fire Department official, who will assume overall incident command.
2. A police supervisor and/or a hazardous material trained officer will be assigned to any command post established by fire officials, to act as liaison between fire and police units.
3. Police responsibilities at a hazardous materials incident will include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - a. warning and evacuation of the public (by means of door-to-door notice, PA system, use of local radio and television stations, etc.)
  - b. controlling access to area (motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic)
  - c. providing security for evacuation area
  - d. providing other assistance as required to the on-scene fire officials (e.g. communication, search and rescue, identification of deceased victims, etc.).
4. Officers responding to a hazardous material incident should remain cognizant of the inherent dangers of such a situation.

- a. Officers will exercise extreme caution and discretion prior to entering an area which has been exposed to a hazardous material.
  - b. As practical, officers should utilize binoculars to read container identification placards from a safe distance.
  - c. Should conditions be such that an officer may be exposed to an extent that personal safety would be jeopardized, officers will:
    - 1) *not* enter the area
    - 2) wait for the arrival of properly trained and equipped personnel (HAZMAT units).
5. Officers should take certain precautionary measures upon arrival at the scene of a hazardous material incident to include, but not be limited to the following:
- a. promptly forwarding information concerning the incident to LynComm, to include:
    - 1) type of incident (railway or highway accident, etc.)
    - 2) basic description (explosion, fire, etc.)
    - 3) exact location of incident
    - 4) all information contained on the UN number, if obtainable
  - b. instructing LynComm to initiate proper notifications, to include:
    - 1) the Lynchburg Fire Department
    - 2) the on-duty supervisor
    - 3) department motorcarrier/hazardous material officer(s)
    - 4) any other agency needed for assistance
  - c. isolating the immediate scene, moving people upwind to a distance of:
    - 1) at least 600 feet from a material spill or leakage
    - 2) at least 1500 feet from suspected radioactive materials

- d. approaching the scene from upwind (wind from the officers' location toward the spill or leakage) and *only* if necessary
  - e. initiating rescue procedures, if appropriate
  - f. not eating, drinking or smoking in the area
  - g. not walking into or touching suspected hazardous materials
  - h. not permitting anyone to obtain "souvenirs" from the area
  - i. keeping away from and avoiding inhalation of visible vapor clouds, dust or smoke
  - j. keeping out of low areas (ditches, culverts, etc.) where fumes naturally collect
  - k. not using flares or other flame-producing devices in the hazard area
  - l. obtaining the names and addresses of all persons exposed to the hazardous material
  - m. in cases of radioactive materials, not removing any item from the scene until it has been checked for radiation by a radiological emergency team
  - n. following other appropriate recommendations within the *Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guidebook*, should the hazardous material be identified.
6. Officers will check out with a safety/health specialist for decontamination prior to going off duty or leaving the scene, as directed.

*Original Signed*

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Raul M. Diaz  
Chief of Police

December 9, 2015

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Date