

**Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority  
FIELD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING**

**F.O.G. #: 702**

**CATEGORY: Incident Response  
Characterization**

**DATE:** October 25, 2018

**PAGES:** 4

---

**I. Purpose:**

- A. To characterize hazardous materials incident response.

**II. Guideline:**

- A. The basis used for classifying the hazardous materials incident levels are:
  - 1. The Level of TECHNICAL expertise required to abate the incident as safely as possible.
  - 2. The extent of local, state, federal government, and private industry required to assist in abating the hazard.
  - 3. The extent of evacuation that may be required during the incident abatement.
  - 4. The extent of injuries and/or deaths related to the hazardous materials incident.
  - 5. The extent and involvement of decontamination required.
  - 6. If defensive (operations level training) or offensive (technical level of training) actions will be necessary to effectively, efficiently, and safely mitigate the event.
- B. There are three basic types of hazardous materials incident classifications. The levels of incidents are as follows:
  - 1. **Level I Incident:** Minor spills, leaks, ruptures, and/or fires involving hazardous materials which can be contained, extinguished, and/or abated utilizing the equipment, supplies, training and resources immediately available to the (response) Authority Having Jurisdiction.
    - a) Depending upon the agency, these personnel may have Technician Level training but will typically have only operation level competencies (defensive) per NFPA 472.
    - b) It is not typically necessary to request the AJCHRA for these types of incidents but a Level I response may be initiated for specific equipment required at the scene that the AJCHRA has. The local Incident Commander may request the ON Call Team Leader contact him or her to further discuss incident needs and dynamics or to obtain technical assistance in person, by radio or another telecommunication method.
    - c) The Team Leader may recommend that a Level II Incident be declared and will contact Jeffcom Communications to do a Level II page or may request specific personnel or equipment through the communications center.

2. **Level II Incident:** Major spills, leaks, ruptures, and/or fires or potential for these types of events involving hazardous materials which CANNOT be contained, extinguished, and/or abated utilizing the equipment, supplies, and resources immediately available to the responder of the initial agency(s) responding.
  - a) These hazardous materials incidents may require testing of the chemical and other technician level competencies in order to determine proper mitigation methods.
  - b) These incidents may require some evacuations or sheltering in order to assure safety and present a moderate environmental impact or potential.
  - c) Level II incidents will require technical expertise (offensive actions) from AJCHRA members that have technician level competencies as per NFPA 472 in order to properly abate or control the hazards.
  
3. **Level III Incident:** A Level III incident is, or has the potential to be, a local or county disaster. The incident will have escalated beyond the capabilities of the resources of the local jurisdiction and the AJCHRA.
  - a) These incidents may last for days and may require large-scale evacuation.
  - b) All types of major Incidents including spills, leaks, ruptures, and/or fires involving hazardous materials which CANNOT be contained, extinguished, and/or abated utilizing the special equipment, supplies, and resources immediately available to the responder of the initial agency responding or HazMat Team would be in this classification.
  - c) These incidents will require technical expertise from AJCHRA in addition to other local, state, and federal agencies trained as hazardous materials technicians and specialist in order to properly abate or control the hazards.

C. Incident Types: The following incident types may occur within Adams, Jefferson and Broomfield Counties:

1. Automobile or other small fuel spills that have not already vaporized
  - a) May require a thin layer of dirt or absorbent available on scene to cover the spill and mitigate vapor.
  - b) May normally be handled by initial firefighter personnel who are properly trained.
  - c) May require a Level I response from the AJCHRA to provide equipment or technical advice. If the amounts of GASOLINE are known to be less than 25 gallons, or, DIESEL FUEL less than 50 gallons, this action may be appropriate.
  
2. Larger Spills that have not already vaporized, have spread over a wide area, have soaked into the ground or otherwise stabilized themselves
  - a) May require diking and vapor suppressant, (i.e. AFFF) application.
  - b) May normally be handled by initial firefighter personnel who are properly trained at the operations level (defensive)

- c) May require a Level I response from the AJCHRA to provide equipment or technical advice. However, these spills may require a Level II response depending on the incident dynamics, locations, and resources needed.
  - d) Pickup of spilled product shall be arranged if at all possible through a private contractor by the consignee, shipper, or manufacturer.
  - e) **NOTE:**
    - 1) Petroleum releases greater than 25 gallons from above ground and underground fuel storage tanks must be reported to the State Oil Inspector, within 24 hours. This includes spill from fuel pumps.
    - 2) A release of any chemical, petroleum product, sewage, etc., which may enter waters of the State of Colorado must be reported to Colorado Department of Public Health immediately.
3. Truck/Transportation incidents where the truck is carrying hazardous material, other than etiological agents or radioactive products
- a) Normally handled with a Level I and or II response depending upon the type of action options that will be necessary to mitigate the incident. (Offensive vs. defensive)
  - b) Those shipments carrying etiological agents or radioactive may require a Level III response to obtain various state and federal resources. These spills may require special supervision in cleanup, monitoring, or compliance.
  - c) Pressure Vessels may rupture and unwrap (BLEVE) when exposed to fire. They may leak after an accident and may require offloading. These types of activities typically require the offensive competencies of the AJCHRA. The most stringent safety precautions must be instituted including adequate fire streams, evacuation, and traffic control. The Team Leader should have a company representative or shipper respond for unloading and handling information. The company shall conduct the offloading process whenever possible.
4. Rail tank cars have a high probability of failure when exposed to fire.
- a) They may have leaks that we are unable to repair and may contain products that require extensive evacuation under fire or leaking conditions.
  - b) Although most all of these incidents would require an initial Level II response, the Incident Commander(s) should consider the potential of these incidents and consider these events as a major incident (Level III). The IC should notify police coordinators, railroad officials, EOC staffing, and various state and federal assets.
5. Unauthorized Dumping
- a) May consist of any possible dangerous product and should require utmost caution.
  - b) Depending on the type of container, and if contents are not leaking, the container can generally be handled effectively by proper placement into an over-pack salvage drum.
  - c) The use of the AJCHRA for any type of unknown materials shall be considered, also over-packing of any containers would be considered a technician level offensive competency.

- 1) Materials suspected of being hazardous materials or hazardous waste must be characterized prior to transport whether leaking or not. It is unlawful for a contractor to transport an “unknown” hazardous material.
- d) Analysis of the product by sampling should be made if leakage occurred, and a proper course of action should be outlined prior to implementing any movement of containers, or removal/disposal of product.
- e) Labeling should be assumed to be missing or altered, and any case of unauthorized dumping is criminal and should be pursued.
- f) These types of events would normally require a Level II response to obtain the AJCHRA with technician level competencies.
- g) See the Chemical Pickup and Transport FOG 1801 for additional information of unauthorized dumping.

#### 6. Fixed Facility Incidents

- a) May consist of any possible dangerous product and should require utmost caution.
- b) The type of business, containers, amounts; the container conditions and fire involvement all must be considered.
- c) Analysis of the product(s) through the use of S.A.R.A. Title III or by sampling should be made if leakage occurred, and a proper course of action should be outlined prior to implementing any movement of containers, or removal/disposal of product.
- d) These types of events would normally require a Level II response to obtain the AJCHRA with technician level competencies.

#### 7. Weapons of Mass Destruction/Terrorism

- a) May consist of a release or threat of release of various chemical and or biological agents in an act of terrorism.
- b) These types of events due to the nature, threat, and destruction potential will require a Level III incident response.
- c) For more information on these events and response information see the WMD Response Information reference guide developed by the AJCHRA.

#### 8. Drug Labs

- a) These types of events may require the services of the AJCHRA. The types of chemicals used in the manufacturing of narcotics are toxic, volatile, and explosive.
- b) The locations of the labs can pose serious risk to surrounding populations and structures since these labs can be found at any location that is convenient for them without regard to public safety.
- c) See **Appendix H** for Drug Lab operating guidelines.

### III. References:

- A. Appendix H
- B. Chemical Pickup and Transport FOG 1801