

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

INCIDENT ZONES / CONTROL ZONES

F.O.G. #: 1000

DATE: November 1, 2022

CATEGORY: Incident Zones / Control Zones

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I. Purpose:

- A. To describe the use of Incident Zones and Control Zones.

II. Guideline:

A. Perimeter Zones

1. Perimeter Zones Definitions: In order to reduce the possibility of injury to responding personnel and the general public, perimeter zones must be established as early into the incident as possible. For clarification purposes, the terms used to describe these zones are explained as follows:
 - a) Hot Zone (Exclusion Zone) (Red Zone): High hazard area - immediate danger area surrounding the incident. This is the area where significant contaminated atmosphere exists or could potentially exist. Everything and everyone that is currently in or later enters the hot zone is considered to be contaminated. Everything and everyone that is contaminated must be decontaminated upon exiting the hot zone.
 - b) Warm Zone: Contamination Reduction Zone (CRZ), Yellow Zone, potential hazard area, the intermediate zone between the Hot and Cold zones. This zone contains the access points and decontamination corridor through which trained and equipped personnel will enter and exit the hot zone. It may also contain a gathering point for potentially contaminated victims awaiting monitoring for release or decontamination.
 - c) Cold Zone: (Support Zone) Green Zone, no hazard area - safe area surrounding the incident. This area shall be free of a contaminated atmosphere. This area is where the CP and other support activities will be located.
 - d) Isolated Area: No hazard area. This area is also free of a contaminated atmosphere like the Cold Zone but has a limited or restricted access.
 - e) Staging Area: No hazard area - restricted area established by the Incident Commander for initial responder gathering, check-in and unassigned resource holding. This area is also free of a contaminated atmosphere.
2. Perimeter Zone Requirements
 - a) Hot Zone - Exclusion-Red Zone: Access must be from a controlled checkpoint, with recording of each entry and exit. Appropriate protective clothing **MUST** be worn by anyone entering this area. The initial boundary would be established based on the type of

- hazardous material involved, weather and wind conditions, initial instrument readings and plume modeling. No smoking or eating allowed within this zone.
- b) Warm Zone – CRZ -Yellow Zone: Decontamination system setup in this area and must provide enough space for multi-step decon processes to take place. Entrance and exit of the decontamination corridor must be well marked and located uphill, upwind and upstream. Forward Command Post can be located at the outer edge of this zone.
 - c) Cold Zone - Support Zone- Green Zone, essentially everything that is outside of the hot (red) or warm (yellow) zone including limited access areas. Typically, the ICP and support services along with rehab will be setup in this area.
 - d) Staging Area: Other responding resources are staged here. Access to and from is zone controlled at checkpoints. This area shall not be any closer than 100 feet from the incident command post. Smoking and eating allowed within this zone in designated places.
3. Establishment of Perimeter Zones: The establishment of the perimeter zones should be accomplished by using the following guidelines:
- a) Use of physical barriers, fire lines, or ropes to exclude unnecessary and unauthorized personnel.
 - b) Checkpoints with limited access to the site or areas within the site.
 - c) Minimizing personnel and equipment on-site consistent with effective operations.
 - d) The perimeter zone boundaries may be readjusted based on additional observation and/or measurements.
4. Dimensions of Perimeter Zones: Considerable judgment is needed to assure safe working distances between the hot, warm and cold zones, balanced against practical work considerations. The following criteria are to be considered in determining the zone dimensions:
- a) Physical and topographical barriers
 - b) Weather conditions
 - c) Field/Laboratory measurements
 - d) Explosion / Exposure potential
 - e) Physical, chemical, toxicological, etc. characteristics of the hazardous material
 - f) Clean-up activities
 - g) Guidelines are established by DOT in the Hazardous Materials Response Guideline book located in each unit.
 - h) Other reference material that is available.

III. References: FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS)