

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

INCIDENT MITIGATION

F.O.G. #: 1100

DATE: November 22, 2022

CATEGORY: Incident Mitigation

PAGES: 1

I. Purpose:

- A. To define the process for Incident Mitigation.

II. Guideline:

- A. **RESPONSE OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY:** Any hazardous materials incident represents a potentially dangerous situation. Chemicals that are combustible, explosive, corrosive, toxic or reactive, along with biological and radioactive materials can affect the general public or the environment as well as the emergency responder. Emergency responders may be subjected to additional dangers while operating in this abnormal environment. While the response activities needed at each incident may be unique, there are similarities. One is that every response requires protecting the health and ensuring the safety of the responders. These AJCHRA FOG's outline the functions needed to control and mitigate a hazardous materials incident. These FOG's also describe the lines of authority, responsibility, and communication between and among the various responders. **These FOG's are not intended to be a comprehensive guide to the handling of each and every hazardous materials incident, but are intended to complement specialized training provided to the responders.**

- B. **RESPONSE PRIORITIES:** The following are the basic considerations for hazardous materials incident response priorities:
 - 1. **LIFE SAFETY:** Life Safety and Health risks to the public and the emergency responders are the most important concerns that should be considered. "Line-of-sight" rescues should not be delayed while waiting for the HazMat Team response

 - 2. **INCIDENT STABILIZATION:** The Adams/Jefferson County Hazardous Materials Response Team (AJCHRA) must stabilize the incident scene and prevent further escalation of the incident with minimum personal risk.

 - 3. **PROPERTY CONSERVATION:** The Adams/Jefferson County Hazardous Materials Response Team (AJCHRA) response efforts should be directed toward protecting property and minimizing or lessening the impact of the event on the environment.

 - 4. **EVIDENCE PRESERVATION:** Whenever practical, the preservation of evidence in its best form will be considered and preserved for law enforcement and criminal prosecution providing that doing so will not interfere or preclude the other priorities.

III. References: