

Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority
FIELD OPERATING GUIDELINES

RESCUE

F.O.G. #: 1300

DATE: December 31, 2008

CATEGORY: Rescue

PAGES: 1

I. Purpose:

- A. To define when rescue attempts are appropriate.

II. Guideline:

- A. RESCUE: In most situations, emergency personnel can protect the public by isolating and denying entry into known or suspected contaminated areas. Initial rescue actions should concentrate on directing ambulatory (able to move on their own) persons from immediate danger.
 - 1. AJCHRA encourages the principles of the HazMatIQ® initial response system including appropriate “line-of-sight” rescues prior to the arrival of the HazMat Team.
 - 2. Involvement in complicated rescue problems or unknown situations should be evaluated before being attempted.
 - 3. When the probability is high that the victim cannot be saved or is already dead, rescue should not be attempted if it will place the rescuer at unnecessary risk.
 - 4. The danger associated with radiation, unknown chemicals or a potential for explosion may make the risk unacceptable.

- B. CONSIDERATIONS: The following should be considered in attempting a rescue during a hazardous materials emergency:
 - 1. Has the presence of a victim been confirmed visually or by other credible sources?
 - 2. Is the person conscious or responsive?
 - 3. How long has the victim been trapped or exposed?
 - 4. Is the victim viable?
 - 5. Is the leaking material pooling or vaporizing in the area of the victim?
 - 6. What are the properties of the material? What is the concentration of the material around the victim?
 - 7. What special equipment is available to assist in this effort?
 - a) Unmanned remotely controlled vehicles

III. References:

- A. Reference 1
- B. Reference 2