

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

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING**

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

**CATEGORY: Incident Response  
Characterization**

**DATE: November 1, 2022**

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**I. Purpose:**

- A. To characterize hazardous materials incident response.

**II. Guideline:**

- A. The basis used for classifying the hazardous materials incident are:
  - 1. The Level of TECHNICAL expertise required to abate the incident as safely as possible.
  - 2. The potential threat level to people, property or the environment.
  - 3. The extent of injuries and/or deaths related to the hazardous materials incident
  - 4. The extent of evacuation that may be required during the incident abatement.
  - 5. The extent of local, state, federal government, and private industry required to assist in abating the hazard.
  - 6. The extent and involvement of decontamination required.
  - 7. If defensive (operations level training) or offensive (technical level of training) actions will be necessary to effectively, efficiently, and safely mitigate the event.
- B. Classification should be determined by the on-duty HazMat Officer by using the Initial HazMat Response Questionnaire
- 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 response from the AJCHRA to provide equipment or technical advice. If the amount of product is more than 25 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 mutual aid 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 team 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 HazMat Officer should have a company representative or shipper respond for unloading and handling information. **The company or their contractor, 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 mutual aid response, the Incident Commander(s) should consider the potential of these incidents and consider these events as a major incident and request a full team response. 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 or unknown hazardous waste.
- 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 partial team 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 full team 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
- C. Initial HazMat Response Questionnaire