

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

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

F.O.G. #: 703

DATE: October 26, 2018

CATEGORY: Initial Response Actions

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I. Purpose:

- A. To define the AJCHRA's initial response actions.

II. Guideline:

- A. The following are suggested guidelines for the first responder community in Adams, Broomfield and Jefferson Counties but are not intended nor should they take precedence over local operating procedures.
 - 1. First Due Units Responding for HazMat or potential HazMat events:
 - a) The first due unit(s) must consciously avoid committing itself to a compromising situation.
 - b) Determine temperature, wind direction and speed from the appropriate communication center prior to arrival.
 - c) Approach the scene from upwind and uphill if possible or feasible.
 - d) Stop or slow down at a reasonable distance when approaching to assess any visible activity-taking place. Evaluate and identify effects of wind, topography, and a specific location of incident.
 - e) First unit on scene will advise ALL OTHER UNITS to stage until instructed to take specific action. Units must stage in an appropriate safe location, taking into account factors of wind speed/direction, spillage flow direction, and similar factors of any situation.
 - f) No responder or unit shall enter a vapor cloud or otherwise contaminated area until determined safe.
 - g) No smoking or eating should be permitted until a designated site is established.
 - h) Ambulance notification or response shall be a consideration as an additional resource, if only for standby purposes.

2. Initial Size-up of Incident

- a) Command must make a careful size-up before deciding on a commitment. It may be necessary to take immediate action to make a rescue or evacuate an area, but this should be done with an awareness of the risk to fire department personnel, and taking advantage of available protective equipment.
- b) The objective of the size-up is to identify the nature and severity of the immediate problem and gather sufficient information to formulate a valid action plan. A hazardous materials incident requires a more cautious and deliberate size-up than most fire situations.
- c) Avoid premature commitment of companies and personnel to potentially hazardous locations. Proceed with caution in evaluating risks before formulating a plan and keep uncommitted companies at a safe distance.
- d) Identify a HOT ZONE based on knowledge of the potential danger, known material involved, time of day, wind and weather conditions, location, monitoring, the DOT Guide and the accepted degree of risk to unprotected personnel.
- e) If possible, take immediate action to evacuate and/or rescue persons in critical danger, **PROVIDED THE SAFETY OF THE RESCUERS IS NOT COMPROMISED**. If unsure of the risks or danger keep a safe distance until more information is available. Isolate/deny entry: Establish control by restricting entry to the hazard area with rope/banner or police/security if possible and pragmatic.
- f) The major problem in most cases is to identify the type of material(s) involved in a situation and the hazards presented before formulating a plan of action. Therefore:
 - 1) In transportation look for the four-digit DOT number on the container, and cross reference it to the DOT guide which should be available in all response units or as an app on electronic devices.
 - 2) Locate and research any shipping papers/manifest if they can safely be located.
 - 3) If at a fixed facility determine if a CFATS, RMP or S.A.R.A. Title III Tier II plan has been completed and is on file.
 - 4) Look for any labels or marking, utilizing binoculars or spotting scope.
 - 5) Interview responsible parties, plant manager, truck driver or other knowledgeable sources.
 - 6) **Caution** - Do not assume the placards are correct. The waybill or shipping papers are the best resource for determining the contents of the container(s).

3. Action Plan

- a) Based on the initial size-up and any information available, Command personnel will have to formulate an action plan to deal with the situation.
- b) Most hazardous materials are intended to be maintained in a safe condition for handling and use through confinement in a container or protective system. The emergency is usually related to the material escaping from the protective container or system and creating a hazard on the exterior. The strategic plan must include a method to get the hazardous material back into a safe container, dispose of it, neutralize it, or allow it to dissipate safely.
- c) The specific action plan must identify the method of hazard control and identify the resources available and/or required to accomplish this goal. It may be necessary to select one method over another due to the inability of a particular resource or to adopt a "holding action" to wait for needed equipment or supplies.
 - 1) AJCHRA encourages the use of the HazMatIQ® methodology for initial size-up and action plan by all member agencies
- d) As a general policy, the AJCHRA Technicians will be assigned to any situation involving direct contact with hazardous materials or any offensive action beyond a line-of-sight rescue. Operations level personnel primary role per the federal standards is one of defensive action options and includes things such as diking, damming, research isolate and deny entry and establish initial command and control activities.
- e) The Action Plan must provide for:
 - 1) Immediate line-of-sight rescue and gross decontamination of injured persons
 - 2) Safety of citizens
 - 3) Safety of Firefighters
 - 4) Evacuation or sheltering of endangered area, if necessary
 - 5) Control of situation
 - 6) Stabilization of hazardous materials, and/or possible disposal or removal of hazardous materials
 - 7) Disposal or removal of hazardous materials
 - 8) Avoid committing personnel and equipment prematurely or "experimenting" with techniques and tactics. Many times, it is necessary to evacuate and wait for special equipment or expert help.