



**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

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| SUBJECT: Levels of Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents | Number: HAMMER-003 |
| OBJECTIVE: Provide Guidance for Distinguishing Incident Levels to Aid a Team in Deciding Whether to Respond to An Incident. | Approved: <hr/> Adoption Date: March 29, 2003 Revision Date: February 6, 2007 |

I. SCOPE

As part of the decision-making process of whether or not to respond to a hazardous materials incident, the hazardous materials emergency response team needs to consider the level of the incident. This guideline is to be used to help identify the appropriate incident level.

II. DEFINITIONS - GENERAL

Container - Any vessel used for transporting or storing liquid or solid material.

Drums - Containers that will accommodate less than 60 gallons of material.

Portable Containers - Containers that will hold less than 660 gallons of material, such as drums, totes, carboys, etc..

Product Identification - Identification words, symbols, etc. used to identify the product. If the particular identification criteria do not apply to the considered incident level, the contractor needs to review the next incident level criteria.

Totes – Portable containers that will hold 60 to 660 gallons of material.



III. LEVEL ONE INCIDENTS

LEVEL I - A. Telephone Advisory - Team personnel provide telephone assistance to local responders.

LEVEL I - B. On-Site Advisory - Team member responds to provide on-site assistance to local responders.

LEVEL I - C. On-Site Analysis - One to two team personnel respond for on-site reconnaissance at the scene.

1. 1541 w/ Trailer T-1 and 1542 w/ Trailer T-2 responds as needed based on initial scene assessment utilizing CW-CMD for Command Information and CW-HAZ MAT for on-scene communications.
2. All HAMMER-15 personnel respond to BC ESTC, unless instructed differently.
3. When all vehicles are enroute to an assigned incident and additional personnel are needed, Burlington County Central Communications will be instructed to re-dispatch and direct "All Personnel To The Scene and Stage at _____."

- A. Definition - Level One incidents are those incidents that can be readily controlled/stabilized by trained and equipped first responders. Hazardous Materials Team members could be contacted for technical assistance; however, a team response would not be required.
- B. Product Identification - At this level, a placard is not required, the material is 0 or 1 in all NFPA categories, and all class 9 and ORM D.
- C. Container Size -The containers are small (e.g., pail, drums, cylinders except one-ton, packages, or bags).
- D. Fire/Explosion Potential - This potential is low.
- E. Leak Severity - There is no release or a small release (less than 5 gallons liquid, or less than 20 pounds solid of a known hazardous material) that can be contained or confined with readily available resources.
- F. Life Safety - A life threatening situation is not expected from the materials involved, and these incidents do not require evacuations.
- G. Environmental Impact Potential - Minimal.



H. Container Integrity - The container is not damaged.

IV. LEVEL TWO INCIDENTS

LEVEL II - A. Haz Cat / Product Identification - Two to four team personnel to sample and provide product identification.

LEVEL II - B. Small Team Response - Six to eight team personnel respond to mitigate medium/moderate incidents. This can be Level A and/or Level B trained and equipped personnel.

1. 1541 w/ Trailer T-1 and 1542 w/ Trailer T-2 responds as needed based on initial scene assessment utilizing CW-CMD for Command Information and CW-HAZ MAT for on-scene communications.
 2. All HAMMER-15 personnel respond to BC ESTC, unless instructed differently.
 3. When all vehicles are enroute to an assigned incident and additional personnel are needed, Burlington County Central Communications will be instructed to re-dispatch and direct "All Personnel To The Scene and Stage at _____."
 4. In order to facilitate safe operations and provide adequate support, a minimum of **three** Evesham Fire-Rescue Haz-Mat Technicians will respond on the first dispatch. In the event that less than three Haz-Mat Technicians are available to respond, every effort shall be made to contact a responding Burlington County HAMMER-15 Team Chief, either through Central or by other communications means (cell phone, Nextel, etc.). The HAMMER-15 Team Chief will make the determination as to whether or not the unit should respond. All other Evesham Fire-Rescue Haz-Mat Technicians will stand-by in quarters in case more team members are required.
 5. Evesham Fire-Rescue 2239/2219 with Haz Mat Trailer 3 will sign on with Central Communications utilizing and coordinating response via CW-CMD. All on-scene communications will be on CW-HAZ MAT.
- A. Definition - Level Two incidents are those incidents that required special resources (Hazardous Materials Team) for control/stabilization.



- B. Product Identification - At this level, the material is Department of Transportation (DOT) placarded, the material is NFPA 2 for any categories, PCBs without fire, and EPA regulated waste.
- C. Container Size - The containers are of medium size (i.e., one-ton cylinder, portable containers, nurse tanks, or multiple small packages).
- D. Fire/Explosion Potential - This potential is medium.
- E. Leak Severity - There is a release of more than 5 gallons of liquid or 20 pounds of solid, known hazardous material. There may be release a of any quantity of toxic or unknown material in a critical public area. The release may not be controllable without special resources (i.e., HMERT).
- F. Life Safety - It is limited to a localized area and the evacuation area is limited.
- G. Environmental Impact Potential - Moderate.
- H. Container Integrity - The container is damaged but able to contain the contents to allow handling or transfer of product.

V. LEVEL THREE INCIDENTS

LEVEL III - A. Expanded Response - Six to eight team personnel plus any additional personnel or resources required to mitigate large/severe incidents.

LEVEL III - B. Multiple Team Response - Multiple regional teams plus any additional personnel or resources required to mitigate large/severe incidents.

1. 1541 w/ Trailer T-1 and 1542 w/ Trailer T-2 responds as needed based on initial scene assessment utilizing CW-CMD for Command Information and CW-HAZ MAT for on-scene communications.
2. All HAMMER-15 personnel respond to BC ESTC, unless instructed differently.
3. When all vehicles are enroute to an assigned incident and additional personnel are needed, Burlington County Central Communications will be instructed to re-dispatch and direct "All Personnel To The Scene and Stage at _____."



4. For level III response, any available Evesham Fire-Rescue Haz Mat Technicians Evesham will respond on the first dispatch.
 5. Evesham Fire-Rescue 2239/2219 with Haz Mat Trailer 3 will sign on with Central Communications utilizing and coordinating response via CW-CMD. All on-scene communications will be on CW-HAZ MAT.
 6. All other Evesham Fire-Rescue Haz-Mat Technicians will stand-by in quarters in case more team members are required. Additional team members will be sent to the incident as needed, **provided** there is sufficient staffing to adequately cover responses within Evesham Township.
 - A. Definition - Level Three incidents are those incidents that require special resources (one or more HMERT) and other outside agencies for support.
 - B. Product Identification - These are identified as class 2, division 2.3 - poisonous gases, class 1, division 1.1 and 1.2 - explosives, organic peroxide, flammable solid, materials dangerous when wet, chlorine, fluorine, anhydrous ammonia, radioactive materials, NFPA 3 or 4 for any categories including special hazards, PCBs with fire, DOT inhalation hazard, EPA extremely hazardous substances and cryogenics.
 - C. Container Size - The containers are large (e.g., tanks, hopper cars/trucks, multiple medium containers).
 - D. Fire/Explosion Potential - This potential is high.
 - E. Leak Severity - There is a release which may not be controllable even with special resources, or there is a release which has escalated beyond capabilities of local resources.
 - F. Life Safety - A large area is affected, mass evacuation may be required, and support from FEMA, Red Cross, and/or National Guard may be needed.
 - G. Environmental Impact Potential - Severe.
 - H. Container Integrity - The container is damaged to such an extent that product containment is not possible or catastrophic rupture is possible.
- VI. ATTACHMENT - Guidelines for Tiered Response

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY TEAM / GUIDELINES FOR TIERED RESPONSE

| | LEVEL I RESPONSE Readily controlled / stabilized by first responders. HazMat team personnel provide technical assistance. Does not require team response. | | | LEVEL II RESPONSE Requires special resources (HazMat team) for control / stabilization. | | LEVEL III RESPONSE Requires special resources (one or more HazMat teams) and other outside agencies for support. | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | A. Telephone Advisory | B. On-Site Advisory | C. On-Site Analysis | A. HazCating / Product ID | B. Small Team Response | A. Expanded Response | B. Multiple Team Response |
| Number of Team Personnel | 1 | 1 Team Member | 1-2 Team Personnel | 2-4 Team Personnel | 6-8 Team Personnel | (6-8) + additional Team Personnel | Multiple Teams |
| Special Resources Required | None | None | None | HazMat Team | HazMat Team | HazMat Team | Multiple Teams + additional resources |
| Off-Site Reconnaissance | No | Info. & provide advice. | Advise if team is needed. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| On-Site Reconnaissance | No | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Hazcat / Product ID | No | No | No | DOT placarded, NFPA 2 for any categories, PCBs without fire, and EPA Regulated Waste | DOT placarded, NFPA 2 for any categories, PCBs without fire, and EPA Regulated Waste | Class 2, division 2.3 poisonous gases; Class 1, division 1.1 and 1.2 explosives, organic pesticide, flammable solid, materials dangerous when wet, chlorine, fluorine, anhydrous ammonia, radioactive materials, NFPA 3 or 4 for any categories including special hazards, PCBs with fire, DOT inhalation hazard, EPA extremely hazardous substances and cryogenics. | Class 2, division 2.3 poisonous gases; Class 1, division 1.1 and 1.2 explosives, organic pesticide, flammable solid, materials dangerous when wet, chlorine, fluorine, anhydrous ammonia, radioactive materials, NFPA 3 or 4 for any categories including special hazards, PCBs with fire, DOT inhalation hazard, EPA extremely hazardous substances and cryogenics. |
| Container Size | Small | Small | Small | Medium | Medium | Large | Large |
| Fire / Explosion Potential | Low | Low | Low | Medium | Medium | High | High |
| Leak Severity | None or Small | None or Small | None or Small | > 5 gal or 20 lb of known material or a release of unknown material. | > 5 gal or 20 lb of known material or a release of unknown material. | May be uncontrollable | May be uncontrollable |
| Threat to Life Safety | Not Expected | Not Expected | Not Expected | Localized and limited evacuation area. | Localized and limited evacuation area. | Large area, mass evacuation; additional support may be needed from FEMA, Red Cross, etc. | May involve Governor's disaster declaration, large area, mass evacuation; additional support may be needed from FEMA, Red Cross, Nat'l Guard, etc. |
| Environmental Impact Potential | Minimal | Minimal | Minimal | Moderate | Moderate | Severe | Severe |
| Container Integrity | Intact | Intact | Intact | Damaged but able to contain, handle or transfer product. | Damaged but able to contain, handle or transfer product. | Containment impossible; possible catastrophic rupture. | Containment impossible; probable catastrophic rupture. |
| Level "A" Protective Equipment | No | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Level "B" Protective Equipment | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |