

	FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES	
	OPERATIONS	
322.00	APPROVED: <i>David W. Nye, Chief of Police</i>	Initiated: 10/01/2007
		Revised: 11/16/2015

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZMAT) INCIDENTS

322.00 – HazMat Responsibilities – Personnel have the following responsibilities during a HazMat incident:

- The Fire Department exercises primary control when there is fire suppression, rescue, or containment.
- The Police Department's responsibilities are:
 - Security of the area (including outer perimeter and command post)
 - Traffic control
 - Evacuation
 - Close liaison with Fire Department Incident Commander

322.01 – HazMat Procedures – The first responding officer discovering an incident involving the release or potential release of a hazardous material shall exercise extreme caution and discretion prior to entering an exposed area. Should conditions be such that members would be exposed to the extent their personal safety would be jeopardized, members shall not enter the area. They will request a supervisor to respond to the scene and:

- Recognize the potential hazard and retreat to a safe location. Stay at least 600 feet from any spill, upwind and uphill.
- Do not use road flares.
- Provide Communications with any information such as placards, numbers, and company name if the information can be obtained from a safe location.
- Notify the Fire Department duty Battalion Chief.
- Refer to the Emergency Referral Guide (ERG)
- Obtain shipping information if possible.

Officers on the scene of a potential hazardous material spill will comply with the following precautions:

- Never approach the container that is holding the chemical until, the area is determined to be safe or you have seen the shipping papers or placard that shows you exactly what you are dealing with. If it is necessary to approach the container, do so from the side, stay away from the ends of the tanks.
- Look for placards and labels when approaching any transportation accident involving railroad cars and trucks of any size. Attempt to locate shipping papers to ascertain if hazardous materials are present.
- Be sure no flares or flames are used in hazard area. This includes no smoking of any kind.
- Do not walk into or touch spilled materials.
- Keep away from visible vapor clouds, dust or smoke and avoid inhalation of fumes, smoke or dust.
- Approach incident or vehicle from upwind (wind at our back) and only if absolutely necessary. (i.e., to make a rescue)
- Keep out of low areas (ditches, culverts) where fumes naturally collect. Most vapors are heavier than air.
- Move victims to fresh air, giving CPR if necessary.

If it is suspected that hazardous materials may be spilled or leaking:

- Isolate the immediate scene (at least 600 feet from spill) and move people upwind and uphill.
- Identify the substance, if possible, and relay the information to Communications.
- Establish a perimeter if possible.
- Have Communications notify the Fire Department duty Battalion Chief.
- Request assistance & establish traffic points to keep vehicular & pedestrian traffic out.
- Clear the area inside the traffic points of people.
- Wait for the HazMat team to provide further guidance.

In the event that there is a confirmed hazardous material spill, the above listed steps must be followed with these additional procedures implemented by a supervisor:

- Institute notifications according to the Emergency Notifications procedure.
- Implement the Incident Command System - The Incident Commander will be the ranking Fire official on the scene with unified command in the command post.
- Mobilize for evacuation and establish a perimeter as directed by the Incident Commander. Note: Officers will not endanger themselves by evacuating contaminated areas without protective clothing.
- The area must remain isolated until the danger has passed and the hazardous material has been cleaned up.
- The department may use reverse 911, Fred alert, PA system, local media and if necessary go door to door for community notification.
- Utilize evacuation or evacuate persons to shelters already in place.

- All officers will check out with the Safety Officer for decontamination, prior to going off duty.
- The police supervisor who handles the Department's response to this incident is responsible for forwarding an after action report to the Chief of Police through the chain of command.

**FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM / CRITICAL
INCIDENT**

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Recognize the hazard and retreat to a safe location
- Establish a perimeter if possible
- Have Communications notify the HazMat team
- Identify the substance, if possible, and relay the information to Communications
- Implement the Incident Command System - The Incident Commander will be the ranking fire official on the scene.
- Institute notifications according to the **Emergency Notifications** directive
- Mobilize for evacuation and establish a perimeter as directed by the Incident Commander. Note: Officers will not endanger themselves by evacuating contaminated areas without protective clothing
- Request assistance & establish traffic points to keep vehicular & pedestrian traffic out.
- All officers will check out with the Safety Officer for decontamination, prior to going off duty.
- Important Points:
 - No flares, smoking near combustible materials
 - Remain up-wind of incident – keep away from vapor clouds
 - Be aware of hazardous materials placards
 - Obtain information if possible from involved person (s)
 - Relay pertinent information to Fire Department