

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Material Response

Standard Operating Guideline

Purpose:

The Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department herein referred to as, the “Department”, concerned with safety of its personnel, needs to establish an effective system to respond to Hazardous Material Incidents. This guideline will establish a system, which will aid the Incident Commander in the Department response to as they operate in and out of a Hazardous Material Incident.

Scope:

This guideline will be followed by all department personnel who operate at any Hazardous Material Incident with the Department.

Procedures:

Dispatch:

- The Dispatch Center will attempt to obtain any and all information from the person reporting a hazardous materials incident.
 - The information should include:
 - Material name and/or type
 - Amount and size of container(s)
 - Problem (Leak, Spill, Fire, etc.)
 - Dangerous properties of the materials
- Dispatch should ask for the number of persons injured or exposed
- Dispatch should remain on the telephone with the caller to gain additional information after entering the call for the dispatch.
- Any additional information shall be relayed to responding units after dispatch.
- Dispatch should include the safest approach or best access to the incident if available.
- If the call comes from a person with particular knowledge of the hazardous situation, that person should be instructed to meet and direct the arriving units.
- Dispatch shall relay that person's location and level of knowledge to responding units.

First Arriving Unit:

- The first arriving officer will establish Command and begin a size-up.
- The first unit must consciously avoid committing itself to a dangerous situation.
- When approaching, slow down or stop to assess any visible activity taking place.
- Evaluate effects of wind, topography, and location of the situation.
- Route any other responding companies away from any hazards.
- Command shall also have Dispatch activate the first alarm FAST for the Department.

Size-Up:

- Command must make a careful size-up before making a commitment. It may be necessary to take immediate action to make a rescue or evacuate an area.
- Command should perform a risk/benefit analysis.

Action Plan:

- Based on the initial size-up and any information available, Command will formulate an action plan to deal with the situation.
- The Action Plan must provide for:
 - Safety of all fire personnel
 - Evacuation of endangered area, if necessary
 - Control of situation
 - Call for Hazardous Material Teams if outside of Training Scope
 - Support the Hazardous Material Teams

Truck & Engine Company Assignments:

- The first unit assigned by the Incident Commander will be Truck 1. They will investigate the situation using their Hazardous Material Operations Certification.
- The second due piece will be assigned as Truck 2. They will assist Truck 1 with the investigation.
- The third due piece will be assigned as Engine 1 and shall locate a water source should a hydrant be necessary.
- The Officer of Truck 1 or Truck 2 shall advise Command of what they have found in their investigation and what further assistance will be needed.
- If the Officer of Truck 1 or Truck 2 feels that it is unsafe to operate or perform their investigation, they should evacuate the area immediately.

Mutual Aid Hazmat Teams:

The following Hazmat Teams shall be called for Hazardous Material Incidents:

- Berkley Emergency Response Team
- Fort Monmouth Fire Department
- Lakehurst Naval Fire Department

When the mutual aid Hazmat Team arrives on scene, they shall have full command and control over the hazardous material operations. The Departments commanding officer shall assist the Incident Commander of the Hazmat Team with anything the team may need.