

**CITY OF FERGUSON
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

491.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policy and procedure for Ferguson Police employees when confronted with a situation involving hazardous materials.

491.01 POLICY

Hazardous materials can be found at fixed site facilities and in commercial transportation (trucking, automobile carrier, railroad, barge and airline). Additionally, they can be found in clandestine laboratories, illegal hazardous waste sites and in the average home. The proper response to a hazardous material incident is crucial for the safety of those responding as well as the public. The actions of emergency response personnel during the first several minutes of an incident can determine the outcome of the event.

491.02 DEFINITIONS

- A. ***Hazardous Materials*** - Are known by several different names and definitions, (e.g., hazardous materials, hazmat, hazardous waste, hazardous substances, and extremely hazardous substance, or EHS).
- B. ***Hazardous Material Placards*** - Help identify the hazard located inside a vehicle or railcar. Placards, when required, must be displayed on all four sides of the vehicle and mounted on point. They are found on bulk packaging and transport vehicles and must remain on the vehicle until it is emptied; for tank cars this means purged, cleaned or neutralized.
- C. ***Labels*** - Are smaller than placards yet similar in design, and found on non-bulk packaging.
- D. ***United Nations (UN) Number*** - Department of Transportation (DOT) four digit United Nations (UN) number can be found on bulk packages of hazardous materials for which identification numbers are assigned. UN numbers must be displayed when hazardous materials are transported in tank cars, cargo tanks and portable tanks.

They are displayed in the center of an appropriate placard or on an orange panel adjacent to the placard.

- E. ***Shipping Papers*** - provide information on the contents of a shipment, DOT regulations require shipping papers on all shipments. The presence of hazardous materials must be identified on the shipping papers along with:
1. Proper shipping names (e.g., Isopropanol)
 2. Hazard Class (e.g., Flammable Liquid)
 3. DOT Identification Number (e.g., UN1219)
 4. Total quantity of material
 5. Placard information
 6. Emergency contact phone number

491.03 GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. A copy of the Police Officers Hazardous Material Response Guide is kept in each patrol vehicle glove box. This guide provides a brief description of the types of hazards and examples of hazardous material placards and general recommendations when arriving at the scene. Upon the arrival at a scene of an incident involving hazardous materials officers will attempt to make preliminary identification of the material on the basis of placards visible from a safe distance. The supervisor will also be notified of any hazardous material type calls.
- B. Officers may also obtain additional information regarding hazardous materials by advising communications of the placard number located on the cargo vehicle involved. This placard number is entered into the REJIS computer system, and communications will receive:
1. Full name of the chemical or substance
 2. Description of the chemical
 3. How to handle the chemical
 4. If an evacuation is warranted
 5. Clean-up procedures
- C. **NEVER** promise or agree to arrange for site clean-up or take possession of chemicals encountered.
- D. Shipping papers are the responsibility of the driver of the vehicle, train conductor, captain or master of a vessel and the pilot of an aircraft. The location of shipping papers will depend on the method of shipment. For highway transport vehicle, the shipping papers are required to be within arm's length of the driver when seat belted in the vehicle. This means, they could be in a driver's side door pocket, on a clipboard behind the driver or in a brief case in the cab near the driver.

- E. ***NFPA 704 Marking System*** - The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed a system to alert emergency personnel of the type and degree of hazards within an area. This system is displayed at fixed site facilities and may be found on non-bulk packaging. The system uses a diamond shaped symbol divided into four (4) quadrants which have specific meanings:
1. Left side, Blue quadrant, indicates health hazard on a scale of 0 to 4 with 0 being the lowest.
 2. Top, Red quadrant, indicates flammability hazard on a scale of 0 to 4 with 0 being the lowest.
 3. Right side, Yellow quadrant, indicates reactivity hazard on a scale of 0 to 4 with 0 being the lowest.
 4. Lower (bottom), white quadrant contains symbols indicating special hazards, such as OXY for oxidizers and W for water reactive materials. This system does **NOT** identify the hazardous material, only the degree of personal hazard in a given area.
- F. ***Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)*** - will provide basic information on a particular chemical and its hazards. A MSDS is designed for normal workplace usage and not for emergency response activities; emergency response information may be minimal. However, they can also be found with shipping papers and attached to the outside of non-bulk containers.

491.04 RESPONSE PROCEDURES

The following are basic guidelines which Department personnel should follow when encountered by or involved in a hazardous material incident or accident. Remember your safety in response. You cannot render aid or resolve a hazardous situation if you succumb to the hazardous material.

- A. **Stop short of the incident site** - Approach from an upwind, uphill or upstream direction, stay out of low-lying areas. If possible, position your vehicle headed away from the incident site. Look for placards, labels, or a UN number. Make note of container shapes, possible escaping product and the terrain. Avoid any chemical plume, smoke or dust emitting from the product. Maintain a safe distance from involved materials; **DO NOT** try to touch, taste or smell any hazardous material.
- B. **Do not attempt to make any rescues, protect property or the environment** - Do not eat, drink or smoke near the scene. Do not open any containers, attempt to clean up any spillage, or enter a vehicle's cargo area. If the driver of a vehicle is present, ask to see the shipping papers.

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- C. **Secure the Scene** - Isolate the leak or spill area immediately for at least 150 feet in all directions (expand this if you judge it necessary) and keep unnecessary people away.
- D. **Request Assistance** - Immediately request the fire department, your supervisor and an assist unit to help secure the scene. Take charge of the scene until the arrival of fire personnel at which time the Incident Command System (I.C.S.) will be initiated. Fire agencies will establish an Incident Commander (IC) who will assume command of the scene from a hazardous materials perspective with police handling traffic/crowd control, reporting and criminal investigation. Convey to all responding assist units and agencies the following information:
1. The directions or correct approach to the location of the incident.
 2. Name of material(s) involved if known or the hazard class (e.g., flammable liquid, corrosive or radioactive). Advise the dispatcher of any placard or UN number obtained.
 3. Container type and current conditions (e.g., leaking overturned tank, vapors on the ground).
 4. If anyone was exposed to the chemical, including yourself.

491.05 CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND ILLEGAL DUMP SITES

- A. Because of the unstable nature of hazardous materials at clandestine laboratories and illegal dump sites, and the possible existence of armed traps at clandestine labs, Department employees must exercise extreme caution. **Do Not** attempt to turn off any clandestine lab equipment (e.g., shutting off a Bunsen burner; if the chemical process is at the right stage, this action could cause an explosion). **Do not** touch, move or jostle any hazardous material containers.
- B. Once you have identified the site as a clandestine lab or illegal hazardous waste dump site, retreat to a safe distance (150 feet, this can be expanded if necessary) and establish a perimeter, detain any witnesses or suspects and secure the scene. Immediately notify your supervisor and protect the scene until their arrival.
- C. The St Louis County Police Department (889-2341) will be contacted to examine the site, seize the lab materials and clean up the site.
1. The certified lab officers will notify DEA of the lab or dump site location and make arrangements for the clean-up.
 2. The certified lab officers will complete all necessary papers to be forwarded to DEA.

THIS PAGE FOR AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES ONLY

By order of:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colonel Thomas Jackson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON
Chief of Police

Distribution
All Department Personnel