

## ANNEX F - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

### I. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

#### A. Situation

1. A hazardous material is any material or substance which in normal use can be damaging to the health and well-being of man. Such materials cover a broad range of types which may be classified as follows:
  - a. Toxic agents including drugs, chemicals, either natural or synthetic that in normal use are in any way harmful, ranging from poisons to skin irritants and allergens;
  - b. Corrosive chemicals such as sodium hydroxide or sulfuric acid that destroy or otherwise damage the skin and mucous membranes on external contact or inhalation;
  - c. Flammable materials including organic solvents, finely divided metals or powders, some classes of fibers, textiles or plastics, gases and chemicals that either evolve or absorb oxygen during storage, thus constituting a fire risk in contact with organic materials;
  - d. Explosives and strong oxidizers such as peroxides and nitrates;
  - e. Materials in which dangerous heat build-up occurs in storage, either by oxidation or microbiological action;
  - f. Radioactive chemicals or substances that emit ionizing radiation.
2. Hazardous materials are dangerous to health and property, if not properly controlled.
3. Throughout the Town, businesses, industries, residences, etc., store and use a wide variety of hazardous materials on a regular basis.
4. Hazardous materials are transported throughout the area via streets, highways, rail, pipeline and air.
5. An accident may result in emergency response personnel encountering dangerous conditions requiring immediate corrective action to protect themselves, accident victims and citizens.

#### B. Assumptions

1. Disasters involving hazardous materials are usually confined to a localized area. Action should be taken to contain the spill as safely and promptly as possible.
2. Depending on the magnitude, nature, and threatened area, the resources of industry, local, state and federal government, separately or in combination, may be required

to cope with the situation.

## **II. MISSION**

To provide the citizens of Town of Thatcher a level of protection from the effects of hazardous materials involved in a transportation, storage, or usage accident, through appropriate mitigation and preparedness efforts along with response and recovery planning.

## **III. EXECUTION**

### **A. Concept of Operations**

#### **1. Reporting**

- a. Persons arriving at the scene of a hazardous materials incident are expected to immediately communicate with the Fire Department for mitigation, response, and recovery activities. The Fire Department will control operations and be in charge of the incident.
- b. If the situation obviously requires immediate action to cordon off the area or evacuate nearby residents or building occupants (i.e., if there is danger of an immediate explosion or release of toxic gases), the first officer on the scene (either Fire or Deputy) should initiate such action immediately. Adjustment in the size of the Evacuation Zone can be made later after the Fire Department arrives at the scene.

#### **2. Notification**

- a. The ranking Fire Department Officer on the scene will evaluate the situation and determine if a hazardous material release has occurred or if there is a threat of release. He/she will then notify the other responding units and "Alarm". The Police Department dispatcher will notify and advise all necessary personnel of the situation.
- a. The initial Fire Department's Officer will also determine a safe route of entry into the area of the incident, provide staging directives, and begin isolating the area.
- b. Other departments will be notified and will assist as needed, following the Fire Department's direction.

#### **3. Control of Hazardous Area**

##### **a. Hazard Zone (Hot zone)**

The Hazard (Hot) Zone is the area in which personnel are potentially in immediate danger to life and health from the hazardous condition. Access to this area is rigidly controlled and only personnel with proper protective equipment and an assigned activity will be allowed to enter. The Hazard Zone should be geographically described to all units on the scene, when possible.

b. Evacuation Zone (Cold zone)

The Evacuation (Cold) Zone is the larger area surrounding the Hazard Zone in which a lesser degree of risk to personnel exists. All civilians will be removed from this area. The limits of this zone will be enforced by the Sheriff Office, based on distances and directions determined by the Fire Department. The area to be evacuated depends on the nature and amounts of the material(s) and type of risk presented to unprotected personnel (toxic, explosive, etc.). In some instances it is necessary to completely evacuate a radius around a site for a certain distance (i.e., potential explosion). In other instances evacuation only needs to be downwind, following paths where toxic or flammable vapors may be carried.

c. Organization

The on-scene Fire incident command system would be expanded and integrated into the County EOP. Refer to **Basic Plan**, and **Annex A, Direction and Control**.

d. Tasks

1. Fire Department

- i. Take immediate steps to identify the type, amount, and nature of the hazardous material and request technical assistance.
- ii. Establish a Command Post, at a safe location near the incident, and coordinate all agencies assisting in the operation. The Incident Commander is responsible for the direction and coordination of all aspects of the incident, from initial response through stabilization.
- iii. Isolate, and determine hazard and evacuation zones.
- iv. Determine necessary levels of Personal Protective Equipment.
- v. Set-up a Contamination Reduction Corridor and perform necessary decontamination.
- vi. Accomplish air monitoring of the incident if needed.
- vii. Recommend and initiate evacuation if indicated.

1. Police Department

- i. Clear scene of all unnecessary personnel.
- ii. Carry out evacuation as recommended by the Fire Incident Commander. See **Annex D Evacuation**.
- iii. Control access to evacuated areas and prevent looting of damaged or evacuated areas.
- iv. Provide for traffic and crowd control.
- v. Provide levels of security where needed at the scene (i.e.,

keep onlookers away from contaminated patients).

## 2. Town Road Department

- i. At least one Town Road official will report to the Command Post and assist the Fire Department with appropriate heavy equipment for rescue, recovery operations, diking, or clearing access for emergency vehicles, etc.
- ii. Provide barricades around the Hazard and/or Evacuation Zones, as requested.
- iii. Provide sand for building dikes to contain and absorb liquids and for use in blocking run-off into drains or sanitation systems.
- iv. Assist in traffic control with the appropriate signs, barricades, arrows, etc.

## 3. Utility Agencies.

- i. Assist the on-scene commander in matters pertaining to the effluent which might adversely affect the water and/or sanitary sewage systems.
- ii. Support on-scene emergency actions by filling requests for deployment of department heavy or specialized equipment.
- iii. Regulate the water supply for fire suppression and react to water main damage so as to restore service as expeditiously as possible.
- iv. React to the entry of any pollutant or contaminant into the water supply sources by shutting off appropriate intakes or switching to alternate sources.
- v. Cooperate with the County Health Department in determining and carrying out actions designed to neutralize or eliminate pollutants that have entered the water supply system.

## IV ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

Standard emergency administration and supply procedures will be used. See **Basic Plan**, and **Annex A, Direction and Control**.

## V DIRECTION AND CONTROL

Refer to **Annex A, Direction and Control**

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### **APPENDIX 1 - Assistance Agencies**

1. The following are resources for advice and emergency response in the event of a major incident involving hazardous materials:
2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WATCH COMMANDER: 602-223-2212 or 602-223-2190. Both numbers are staffed 24 hours a day. If State assistance is required, these numbers start the chain-of-command for outside assistance and other State agencies will be contacted for you. The DPS Commercial Vehicle Safety Specialists have the authority to be the State's "On-Scene Coordinator".
3. ARIZONA RADIATION REGULATORY AGENCY: Anytime there is a question, concern, or problem with radioactive materials - call (602) 255-4845 during normal working hours. After hours call the DPS Watch Commander (listed #2 above).
4. CHEMTREC - 1-800-424-9300. Chemical Manufacturer Associations Hot Line
5. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - for spills, or releases. DEQ will provide assistance in cleaning the material up and ensuring proper disposal procedures are followed. (602) 771-2330 or (800) 234-5677.
6. NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER (EPA) - 1-800-424-8802
7. POISON CONTROL - Good Samaritan Poison Control Center (24 hours) (800) 362-0101
8. AZ Department of Transportation Health & Safety (602) 712-7744.
9. Bureau of Alcohol/Tobacco/Firearms (602) 776-5400