

City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 1020

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department that the safety of all personnel must be of first and foremost consideration at a hazardous materials incident.

Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect: May 9, 2011

Date S.O.G. Revised: March 14, 2017

Date Committee Approved S.O.G.: May 9, 2011

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GUIDELINE

1:00 **Purpose:**

1:01 To establish and define procedures for incident evaluation and safe handling of hazardous materials incidents.

2:00 **Procedures:**

2:01 The successful control of a hazardous materials incident begins with a rapid response recognition of the potential hazard combined with effective scene management, and timely request for required resources. This is accomplished in the following steps.

2:02 The Belleville Fire Department is trained to the awareness level which is recognizing the presence of hazardous materials, protecting themselves, call for trained personnel and secure the area.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

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- 2:03 The first arriving officer shall assume command upon arrival. The following steps will be based upon the experience of the incident commander and the information collected.
- 2:04 Upon arrival, approach with care. Stage at a safe distance from the incident (preferably upwind and uphill) until product is identified. Establish a control zone at this location.
- 2:05 The incident commander should safely confirm that the product(s) involved are those which we have been informed of. If we have no information as to the product(s) involved, the IC should take steps to identify them. Binoculars should be used to gain further information required for identification. Placards, labels, UN numbers, container types, sizes and shapes, shipping papers and product destinations stamped on containers are all clues which can be used towards product verification. All personnel shall understand and be able to use the North American Emergency Response Guide (NAERG). This guide should be used as a basis for your initial actions. Also once the product is identified Canutec and Police should be notified.
- 2:06 Considering the information in the NAERG and from Canutec, the control zone established on arrival must be re-evaluated. Isolation of the area based on distances provided in the guide book and/or Canutec shall be initiated. Evacuation shall take place if necessary. The very limited protection that bunker gear provides against exposures to hazardous materials must be considered at all times.
- 2:07 The incident commander must decide as to whether people, property or the environment is at risk. The determination will be based on the IC's assessment of any injuries or exposures of people, the product and its physical and toxicological properties (solids, liquids, gaseous, poisonous, etc) weather conditions or terrain.
- 2:08 The incident commander must decide which options, based on the equipment and level protection available to them that they can initiate at the present time. This may include one or more combinations of the following:
- a) Establish a control zone/isolation/ evacuation
 - b) Diking
 - c) Establishment of fire lines for vapour dispersion or protection of containers from flame impingement.
 - d) Calling for required resources

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3:00 **Scope:**

3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.

3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

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