

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE



This protocol is to be used in all incidents involving hazardous materials where there is an actual or potential exposure to any hazardous substance.



1. Call for help - Contact local fire jurisdiction. Notify and/or respond Spokane Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team.
2. Contact Washington State Poison Center's special direct line (**1-800-709-0911**) and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (**1-888-422-8737**) or for emergency (**1-404-498-0120**) for initial guidance in assessing the hazard and providing for EMS personnel safety and patient care.
3. Establish a SAFE staging area uphill, upwind if possible. Notify all incoming response agencies of proper route for a SAFE scene approach to the staging area. Helicopters, when indicated, should be landed far enough away from the scene to avoid spread of contamination from prop wash.



Refer to the D.O.T. Emergency Response Guidebook, or Hazmat Team for general precautions and isolation/evacuation guidelines. As a general rule of thumb, isolate the hazard area, 100 feet for a minor incident and 500 feet for a major incident. If explosives are involved, evacuate area for a 1/2 mile. Remember: The evacuation zone downwind or downhill will be much greater.



4. Protect yourself and others from any significant exposure. Do not attempt rescue without proper protective gear. Minimize continued exposure of any personnel and secondary contamination of rescue personnel by ensuring that proper decontamination has been completed prior to treatment or transport to a medical facility. Prevent unnecessary contamination of transport vehicles or equipment.
5. Obtain accurate information on health effects of the product(s) involved. Attempt to identify product(s) involved by placard, ID#, shipping papers, personnel on-scene, etc.

6. Provide your certification level of prehospital care. In general, it is not recommended to begin any medical treatment without first referring to proper guidelines (interventions as automatic as providing oxygen may be dangerous if not compatible with the agent involved).
7. HEAR radio patch to the receiving hospital should be titled Hazmat Code Red, Yellow, or Green to allow the hospital to initiate appropriate decontamination and treatment preparations.