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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** | | |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** | |
| **SOG Number:** | |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** | | |

**Dispatch Procedures - Hazardous Materials**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

To indicate the level of response to any Hazardous Material incident and will assist, the communications center and incident commanders in assessing the emergency.

**Procedure:**

**Descriptions of Hazardous Material Levels**

* There are three (3) levels of Chemical Emergencies for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department. Each level is designed to allow tin quick escalation in a major emergency while providing for controlled response and management of information within the levels of response.
* The levels are characterized by the equipment response dispatched and the basic operations performed at the site. Each level of response is detailed in the following standard operating guidelines.
* It is imperative that the Communications Center obtains as much information as possible from the person reporting the incident. This allows the dispatcher and Incident Commander to determine the incident level. All information shall be forwarded to all responding equipment.

**Level I**

* A Level I (minor) emergency is categorized as:
  + An unknown odor
  + An accident involving unknown hazardous materials
  + A small spill of gasoline or fuel oil
  + A general investigation type of emergency
* An incident will remain at Level I if
  + The resources on scene can mitigate the incident
  + The product is positively identified
  + The personnel on scene using information obtained at the scene have determined all possible hazards
* Resources on scene may special request equipment (e.g. sand) and that request will not cause the incident to increase to a Level II
* Dispatch procedure: the communications center shall send at least one engine to the address or location

**Level II**

* A Level II (moderate) emergency is categorized as:
  + A known chemical release.
  + A vehicle accident or fire involving Hazardous Materials.
  + After primary investigation, an officer at a Level I response has determined that the hazards of the involved hazardous material(s) are such that the resources and personnel on scene are inadequate.
  + At a Level II incident the officer in charge cannot determine the identity or hazards of the involved Hazardous Material(s) and additional resources or information is required.
* An incident commander of a Level II emergency may establish control zones to more effectively manage an incident.
* Dispatch Procedure: The communications center shall send at least two engines and a command officer to the address or location. All responding personnel shall be trained at the minimum of First Responder Operational level.

**Level III**

* A Level III (major)emergency is categorized as:
  + A major chemical emergency
  + Any incident where the resources and personnel are inadequate to manage the emergency
  + A multi-agency response
  + A mutual aid response
* Anytime an outside agency is utilized to control an incident including private clean-up companies or a response from the state/commonwealth agency responsible to provide hands on skills.
* A Level III response may only be ordered by the incident commander.
* At all Level Ill incidents, control zones will be established to manage dangers and reduce contamination.
* At all Level III incidents, the incident command post shall be positioned in the cold zone. Hazardous Material Sector shall be located in the warm zone. Only personnel trained to minimum of First Responder Operational level will allowed to enter the warm zone.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department personnel shall only enter the hot zone if the appropriate personal protective equipment is available and rescue is required. Entry into the hot zone should occur only if the benefit outweighs the risk.
* Dispatch Procedure: The communications center, on the initial dispatch, shall send the same as Level III. All information obtained by the communications center shall be forwarded to all responding equipment.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**

West Redding (CT) VFD – GOG 8-OHM-803 Developed/Revised/Reviewed by VFIS ETC