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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** | | |

**Hazardous Materials Level 1 Operations**

***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 describe the operations specific to a Level I Hazardous Material incident.

**Procedure:**

**Initial Operations**

* All personnel responding to a Hazardous Material incident shall use extreme caution and always assume that high-risk hazards are present until confirmed otherwise.
* When approaching a scene, all personnel shall slow down or stop, depending on the information readily available and assess the situation.
* This assessment shall consist of evaluation of any visible activity, effects of weather and normal ambient conditions, topography of the area and other relative information.
* The first arriving officer shall establish an initial command and supervise activities and hazard assessment until relieved by a higher ranking officer (if applicable).
* The initial command officer shall designate a safe location for additional responding units for staging and await further orders.
* Full PPE and SCBA are considered minimum protection level for hazardous material operations.

**Secondary Operations**

* Only after the initial operations have been completed shall secondary operations commence.
* Isolate and Deny Entry
  + Establish control of the problem or hazard area by isolating the public and non-pertinent personnel from the area.
  + If required:
    - Utilize fire scene tape.
    - Utilize personnel to establish a perimeter and deny entry.
    - Advise the incident commander of isolated areas.
* Identify Materials
  + In order to identify the nature and severity of the immediate problem, the identification of the involved hazardous material(s) is essential to protect life and property.
  + The attempt to determine the identity should begin with first arriving personnel.
  + If required:
    - Determine the location of potential victims.
    - Determine escape or evacuation routes.
    - Determine the type, quantity and status of materials involved.
    - Identify material by using name or references such as DOT placard or UN I.D. number.
    - Evaluate the hazards using any resource documents or available references, e.g.:
      * DOT Emergency Response Guidebook
      * AAR Handling Hazardous Materials in Surface Transportation
      * NIOSH Pocket Guide to Hazardous Materials
      * NEPA Guide to Hazardous Materials.
    - If able to do so safely, obtain the on scene document e.g., SDS or Bill of Lading.
  + After determining the hazards, the incident commander shall decide if he/she is capable of handling and terminating the incident with available resources or if incident requires upgrading to a Level II Hazardous Material Incident.

***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-805 Developed/Revised/Reviewed by VFIS ETC