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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** |

**Isolation Zones**

***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 ensure adequate control of Hazardous Material emergencies, a method of site management is required. The incident commander shall establish control zones as needed at Level II incidents. At Level III incidents, it is mandatory that the incident commander establish control zones.

**Procedure:**

**Preliminary Control Zone**

* To assure initial safety during the early stages of a Hazardous Material incident, with the exception of the first arriving piece of apparatus, all other units shall go to Level I staging at a safe distance.
	+ As a guideline:
		- Involved vehicle(s) — 1000 feet
		- City or town address — I block or ten houses
		- Factory/commercial building -1 building away
* Normal weather conditions and topography of land shall alter this distance. Units in staging shall remain at this located until otherwise directed.
* To ensure the personnel safety, no member shall respond to a known Hazardous Material incident in their personal vehicle. The member shall respond to the station and respond on apparatus. This action will assure controlled safety and allows for the use of SCBA. Apparatus should make every effort to respond with a minimum of three (3) personnel for adequate manpower upon arrival.
* The Safety Officer at a Level II incident and the Haz-Mat branch director at a Level III incident shall provide the incident commander with sufficient information, technical advice and opinion to determine zone perimeters.
* The shape and dimensions of the zones will depend upon such details as magnitude of the problem, wind direction and velocity, topography and adjacent structures.

**Hazardous Material Safety Zones**

* The Hazardous Material Safety Zones will be designated as:
	+ Hot
	+ Warm
	+ Cold
* The degree of hazard decreases from Hot (Extremely Dangerous) to Cold (Minimal Danger).
* Hot Zone
	+ Immediate danger area surrounding the problem position and contamination of personnel and equipment will occur in this location.
	+ The greatest potential for harm can occur in the Hot Zone.
	+ Entry into the Hot Zone will only occur for rescue if possible and by personnel having particular knowledge of the problem or hazard and proper meters to ascertain the hazard.
	+ This area must continuously be monitored for hazards.
	+ Proper levels and type of PPE must be worn, by personnel entering into the Hot Zone and by personnel designated as back up or Rapid Intervention personnel.
	+ Back up or Rapid Intervention personnel must be positioned at the border of the Hot Zone at any time entry is performed to assure rapid assistance or rescue if required.
	+ There should be an adequate buffer distance between the Hot Zone and Warm Zone to allow for potential weather changes.
* Warm Zone
	+ Area surrounding the Hot Zone which presents minimum hazard to personnel, nonetheless, a hazard remains to exist.
	+ The line between the Warm and Hot Zones is known as the Hot Line.
	+ The first phase of decontamination occurs in the Warm Zone
	+ The Hot Line area is restricted to personnel required to perform defensive actions.
	+ The Haz-Mat branch director shall be positioned in the Warm Zone.
* Cold Zone
	+ Area surrounding the Warm Zone and presents no threat to personnel and equipment.
	+ The line between the Cold and Warm Zones is known as the contamination line.
	+ There is no chemical hazard or product located in this area.
	+ The following positions will be located in this area:
		- Incident Command Post
		- Logistics Officer
		- Liaison Officer
		- Public Information Officer
		- Emergency Medical Service
	+ This area must maintain control for operational activity and unnecessary access must be controlled as a Fire Line by Police or other personnel as necessary.

**Additional Information**

* Operations in the Warm and Hot Zones are under direct supervision of the fire department Sector Commander who reports directly to the incident commander.
* All personnel operating in this area are obligated to adhere to their SOGs established by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department.
* The Fire Line is a security line. Public access is not allowed for safety and security reasons.

***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-804 Developed/Revised/Reviewed by VFIS ETC