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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** | | |

**Haz-Mat Branch Responsibilities**

***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:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department personnel will be trained to respond to hazardous material emergencies at the first responder operational level. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ personnel will respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the incident location for the intention to protect nearby people, property, and/or the environment from the effects of the release of the hazardous material.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ personnel will be trained to respond in a defensive manner without taking offensive actions attempting to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, minimize the spread of the release, and prevent contamination to exposures. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ personnel shall operate in the Haz Mat Branch to their level of training.

**Procedure:**

**Responsibilities**

* The responsibilities of personnel operating in the Haz Mat Branch shall be to assist the incident commander in the following areas:
  + Isolation of the incident location and denying entry to non-essential personnel and the general public.
  + Identification of the hazardous material(s) involved.
  + Evaluation of the hazards and assessment of the present risks and the potential damage.
  + Providing proper levels of protection for all personnel.
  + Coordination and control of all available information, technical assistance, resources and responding agencies.
  + Control and confinement of the problem or material and resulting run off when safely and effectively possible.
  + Decontamination of emergency personnel, civilians and property as required.
* Effective implementation of the Haz Mat Branch responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:
  + Acquiring information
  + Analyzing information
  + Additional incident size up
  + Establishing isolation and evacuation zones
  + Operating as the function of Hazardous Materials Technical Specialist with:
    - Material shipper
    - Manufacturer
    - Chemtrec
    - EPA
    - DEP
    - Poison Control Center
    - Other technical assistance as necessary
    - Create operational objectives
    - Provide tactical alternatives
    - Provide signs and symptoms of chemical toxicity
    - Suggest operating procedures
* The Haz Mat Branch shall have several functional areas:
  + Advisory and information
  + Technical and scientific
  + Safety
  + Monitoring and air surveillance
  + Reconnaissance
  + Entry and/or rescue
  + Tools and equipment
  + Mitigation
* It is important to stress that all Haz Mat Branch responsibilities must be performed with safety in mind. No personnel shall perform unsafe operations and in addition will not wear Level A or B protective equipment into a Hot Zone.

***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-808 Developed/ Revised /Reviewed by VFIS ETC