



**2-24 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT RESPONSE**

**Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):**

A. Related SOP(s)

2-25 Bomb Threats and Bomb Emergencies (Formerly 1-28)

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Emergency Checklist  
Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Training Manual  
Emergency Response Guidebook  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) Values  
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

**2-24-1 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to Albuquerque Police Department (Department) personnel when responding to a scene that contains a hazardous material that may exceed immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) values. If a hazardous material is not identified, it shall be categorized as IDLH and Department personnel shall not enter the affected area until the Albuquerque Fire Rescue Hazardous Materials (AFR Haz-Mat) Team confirms it to be safe.

**2-24-2 Policy**

It is the policy of the Department to respond to hazardous material incidents and provide a maximum amount of safety to sworn personnel and community members.

N/A

**2-24-3 Definitions**

A. Biological Agent

Bacteria, viruses, fungi, other microorganisms and their associated toxins.

B. Chemical Agent



A chemical compound that has toxic effects on human health. Within this definition, the term includes dusts, mixtures, and even common materials such as paints, fuels, and solvents.

C. Hazardous Condition

Any situation involving the actual, imminent, or probable spillage, leakage, or release of a hazardous substance onto the land, into a water of the state, or into the atmosphere which creates an immediate or potential danger to the public's health or safety, or to the environment.

D. Hazardous Material

Any biological agent and other disease-causing agent which, after released into the environment and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation, or assimilation into any person, will or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutation, physiological malfunctions, or physiological deformations in such persons or their offspring.

E. Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) Values

The high-risk exposure concentrations and conditions that are used as a component of respirator selection criteria.

**2-24-4 Procedures**

7

A. Initial Response

1. Dispatched sworn personnel shall:

- a. From a safe distance, assess the situation by observing hazardous material placards, reviewing shipping papers, interviewing drivers/victims;
- b. Make an on-scene evaluation;
- c. Contact the New Mexico State Police (NMSP) district dispatcher and the AFR Haz-Mat Team through the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) when a hazardous condition exists;
  - i. ECC personnel shall consult the Emergency Response Guidebook.
- d. Establish a safe perimeter around the scene of the accident/incident by using additional units for traffic/crowd management, as necessary;
- e. Notify the Field Services Bureau (FSB) supervisor of the situation; and
- f. Conduct the appropriate investigation when it is safe to do so.

B. Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents

1. An employee who is exposed to a biological or chemical agent while on-duty shall:

- a. Immediately notify their supervisor;



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

**SOP 2-24 (Formerly 2-46)**

**P&P Draft 01/25/2023**

- b. Contact the ECC and advise them to contact the AFR Haz-Mat Team;
    - i. Once the AFR Haz-Mat Team is on-scene, the employee shall follow all decontamination procedures as determined by the AFR Haz-Mat Team.
  - c. Request for ECC to dispatch an officer to assist;
  - d. Secure the contaminated area until AFR Haz-Mat Team clears the scene;
  - e. Follow the directives given by the Medcor nurse and Safety Officer;
  - f. Follow up with the City's Employee Health Center; and
  - g. Bring any medical treatment paperwork related to treatment already received on the first business day following the exposure.
2. The officer who assists the employee who was exposed to a biological or chemical agent shall notify their on-duty supervisor and respond consistent with this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).
  3. The supervisor of the employee who was exposed to a biological or chemical agent shall:
    - a. Notify the Medcor nurse and the Safety Officer at (505) 850-4511.
      - i. The Medcor nurse and Safety Officer are available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days per week.
  4. The Medcor nurse determines the employee's exposure risk and advises them of medical treatment.
  5. The FSB supervisor shall:
    - a. Meet with the on-scene AFR Haz-Mat Team personnel regarding evacuation of the area and be advised by the on-scene AFR Haz-Mat Team personnel the type of hazard and what type of support the Department can provide. Notify the on-duty FSB lieutenant;
    - b. Establish a safe outer perimeter; and
    - c. Notify the ECC to contact a representative of the City of Albuquerque Office of Emergency Preparedness.
- C. Contaminated Areas
1. The AFR Haz-Mat Team may define a specific area around a hazardous material incident as being contaminated. Sworn personnel are cautioned to remain outside this contaminated area whenever possible.
  2. FSB supervisors are responsible for ensuring that involvement of Department personnel within a contaminated area is minimized.
    - a. When possible, vehicles and equipment shall be kept outside the contaminated area.
- D. Clean-Up and Evacuation



1. The AFR Haz-Mat Team has major responsibility for hazardous material cleanup and evacuation operations, which will be directed from on-scene command posts they establish.
  - a. If appropriate, Department personnel may contact ACT Enviro's twenty-four (24) hour emergency response number at (866) 348-2800 or the local number at (505) 349-5220 for hazardous material clean up that was left at the scene.
2. Department personnel shall assist only under the following conditions:
  - a. When specialized training is provided to sworn personnel by the AFR Haz-Mat Team at the scene, as needed; and
  - b. When specialized equipment is provided to sworn personnel, such as breathing apparatus, masks, acid suits, etc.
3. If the AFR Haz-Mat Team verify an area needs to be evacuated, they establish the boundaries of the area to be evacuated and the time available and needed for the evacuation.
4. The FSB supervisor shall decide based on conducting door-to-door contact or through the use of the public address systems in police vehicles to inform community members of the evacuation, based on time limits, available manpower, and size of the area to be evacuated.
5. The FSB supervisor shall select an area, such as a parking lot near a major intersection outside the hazard area, and direct all community members to that location.
6. Sworn personnel shall be assigned to remain with the community members until the emergency concludes.
7. If the emergency situation is prolonged, the FSB supervisor shall have the ECC advise the City Office of Emergency Preparedness representative so that necessary arrangements for transporting the evacuees to shelters can be expedited.

E. Hazardous Material Identified as an Explosive

N/A

If the hazardous material is explosive or an explosive device, the on-scene supervisor shall notify the Department's Bomb Squad, consistent with SOP Bomb Threats and Bomb Emergencies (refer to SOP Bomb Threats and Bomb Emergencies for sanction classifications and additional duties).

F. Response to Letters/Packages Containing Potential Chemical, Biological, and/or Radiological Agents/Devices



1. Upon notification of an incident, ECC personnel shall:
  - a. Obtain the location of the object;
  - b. Create a call for service;
  - c. Advise the caller to step away from the object; and
  - d. Request additional information (refer to the ECC Emergency Checklist and ECC Training Manual).
  
2. FSB sworn personnel who initially respond to the scene shall:
  - a. Take every precaution to reduce the possibility of exposure to themselves, Department personnel, and community members;
  - b. Adhere to the Federal Emergency Management System (FEMA) training and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training standards;
  - c. Communicate with the appropriate AFR Haz-Mat Team personnel with regards to establishing a safe perimeter;
  - d. Notify the chain of command; and
  - e. Establish a safe outer perimeter.
  
3. In the event of an exposure, Department personnel shall contact the ECC and request the AFR Haz-Mat Team for an emergency exposure or call Medcor at (800) 775-5866 if the exposure is non-emergent.

**G. Hazardous Materials as Evidence**

1. If any hazardous materials are needed for evidence, sworn personnel shall contact Criminalistics Laboratory personnel for instructions and assistance in the proper handling and packaging for storage.
  
2. The Evidence Unit supervisor shall be notified before tagging such items into evidence.



## 2-24 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT RESPONSE

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C. Other Resource(s)

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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

### 2-24-1 Purpose

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E. Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) Values

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**7** 2-24-4 **Procedures**

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- c. Contact the New Mexico State Police (NMSP) district dispatcher and the AFR Haz-Mat Team through the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) when a hazardous condition exists;
  - i. ECC personnel shall consult the Emergency Response Guidebook.
- d. Establish a safe perimeter around the scene of the accident/incident by using additional units for traffic/crowd management, as necessary;
- e. Notify the Field Services Bureau (FSB) supervisor of the situation; and
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- a. Immediately notify their supervisor;
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    - i. Once the AFR Haz-Mat Team is on-scene, the employee shall follow all decontamination procedures as determined by the AFR Haz-Mat Team.
  - c. Request for ECC to dispatch an officer to assist;
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- ~~a. Meet with the on-scene AFR Hazard Team personnel regarding evacuation of the area;~~
  - b. Meet with the on-scene AFR Haz-Mat Team personnel regarding evacuation of the area and be advised by the on-scene AFR Haz-Mat Team personnel the type of hazard and what type of support the Department can provide. The on-scene AFR Haz-Mat Team personnel advise the FSB supervisor of the type of hazard and what support the Department can provide.
  - ~~c. Notify the on-duty FSB lieutenant;~~
  - ~~d. Establish a safe outer perimeter; and~~
  - ~~e. Notify the ECC to contact a representative of the City of Albuquerque Office of Emergency Preparedness.~~

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- a. When possible, vehicles and equipment shall be kept outside the contaminated area.
- ~~b. When it is necessary to enter this area, carpooling should be considered as well as removal of all unnecessary uniform and leather items.~~
- ~~c. When possible, protective clothing provided by the AFR Haz-Mat Team shall be used.~~

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