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Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):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

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Emergency Checklist
Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Training Manual
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)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 the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) employees 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 considered as immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH). Department employees shall not enter the affected area until it is confirmed to be safe by the Albuquerque Fire and Rescue (AFR) Special Hazardous Materials (AFR Haz-Mat) Team (HEAT) personnel.

2-24-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to respond to hazardous material incidents and provide a maximum amount of safety to officers (sworn personnel) and citizens.

2-24-3 Definitions

None
A. Initial Response

1. The 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. When a hazardous condition exists, contact the New Mexico State Police (NMSP) District Dispatcher and the Albuquerque Fire Rescue (AFRD) Special Hazards Team (HEAT) Haz-Mat Team through the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) when a hazardous condition exists;
   d. Establish a safe perimeter around the scene by using additional units as necessary for traffic/crowd control;
   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;
   b. Contact the ECC and advise them to contact the AFRD Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) Team;
      i. Once the AFRD Haz-Mat Team is on-scene, the employee shall follow all decontamination procedures as determined by the AFRD Haz-Mat Team;
   c. Request for ECC to dispatch an officer to assist;
   d. Secure the contaminated area until AFRD Haz-Mat Team clears the scene;
   e. Follow the directives given by the Medcor nurse and Department Safety Officer; and
   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 policy Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

3. The supervisor of the employee who was exposed to a biological or chemical agent shall:
a. Notify Ensure that the Medcor nurse and the Safety Officer at ((505) 850-4511) are notified.
   i. The Medcor nurse and Safety Officer are available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days per week.

4. The Medcor nurse will determines the employee’s exposure risk and advises them of medical treatment.

5. The FSB Field Supervisor shall:
   a. Confer Communicate Meet with the on-scene appropriate Fire Rescue AFR Fire Chief and Hazard Team personnel regarding evacuation of the area.
      i. The on-scene AFR Hazard-Mat Team personnel will advise the FSB supervisor of the type of hazard and what support the Department can provide.
   b. Notify the shift commander on-duty FSB lieutenant;
      b. Meet with the on-scene AFR Fire Chief. The AFR Chief will advise on the type of hazard and what support the Department can provide;
      c. Ensure the establishment of Establish a safe outer perimeter; and.
      c. Notify the communications ECC to contact a representative of the City of Albuquerque Office of Emergency Preparedness.

B. Contaminated Areas

1. The Fire Rescue AFR Haz-Mat personnel Team may define a specific area around a hazardous material incident as being contaminated. Officers Sworn personnel are cautioned to remain outside this contaminated area whenever possible.

2. FSB Field Supervisor are responsible for ensuring that involvement of police personnel within a contaminated area is minimized.

   a. When possible, vehicles and equipment will 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 fire department AFR Haz-Mat Team should be used.

D. Clean-Up and Evacuation
1. The Fire Rescue AFR personnel Haz-Mat Team will have major responsibility for hazardous material cleanup and evacuation operations, which will be directed from on-scene command posts they establish.

2.1. Police Department personnel shall assist only under the following conditions:

a. When specialized training is provided to officers sworn personnel by the Albuquerque Fire and Rescue (AFR) personnel Haz-Mat Team at the scene, as needed;

b. When specialized equipment is provided to officers sworn personnel, such as breathing apparatus, masks, acid suits, etc.

2.3. If the Fire Rescue AFR personnel Haz-Mat Team decide to evacuate an area, they will establish the boundaries of the area to be evacuated and the time available and needed for the evacuation.

3.4. The Field Services Supervisor will decide based on conducting door-to-door contact or through the use of the public address systems in patrol cars to inform citizens community members of the evacuation, based on time limits, available manpower, and size of the area to be evacuated.

4.5. The Field Services Supervisor will select an area, such as a parking lot near a major intersection outside the hazard area, and direct all citizens community members to that point.

5.6. An officer sworn personnel will be assigned to remain with the community members until the emergency is over.

6.7. If the emergency situation is prolonged, the Field Services Supervisor will advise the City Office of Emergency Preparedness representative so that necessary arrangements for transporting the evacuees to shelters can be expedited.

D. Hazardous Material Identified as an Explosive

If the hazardous material is an explosive or an explosive device, the on-scene supervisor shall notify the Department's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit personnel will be notified, consistent with SOP Bomb Threats and Bomb Emergencies for sanction classifications and additional duties.

E. Pickup or Disposal of Hazardous Waste Material
When officers sworn personnel come in contact with the hazardous waste material (e.g., chemicals and solvents) that do not pose an immediate health hazard, they will be instructed to contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Small Business Ombudsman Hotline at 1-800-858-7378 (Pesticide Spills) or 1-800-424-9300 (Chemical Spills), consistent with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976.

The EOD Unit personnel will not be called out to pick up or dispose of this type of hazardous material.

F. Hazardous Materials as Evidence

1. If any hazardous materials are needed for evidence, the officers shall contact the Criminalistics Laboratory personnel for instructions and assistance in the proper handling and packaging for storage.

2. The evidence supervisor shall be notified before tagging such items into evidence.

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

Upon notification of an incident, the Department call-taker will conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if the minimum criteria for a credible threat exist.

1. The minimum criteria to determine if a letter or package is a credible threat are as follows:

a. The letter or package has suspicious material present (opened or unopened);

b. There is excessive tape or string;

c. It is lopsided or in an uneven shape;

d. It was possibly mailed from a foreign country;

e. There is powder spilling, substance leaking, or staining;

f. There are oily stains, discoloration, or crystallization on wrappers;

g. There is a strange odor;

h. The letter or package has protruding wires; and

i. Any letter or package with an articulated threat (opened or unopened), substance need not be present.

If the minimum criteria are met, the call-taker will immediately dispatch Field FSB Units and notify the APD Bomb Squad, EOD Unit, AFR, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

If the minimum criteria for a credible threat are not present, the call-taker shall advise the caller that the incident does not meet the minimum criteria. The item should be placed in a plastic container or bag and disposed of in a trash.
Upon notification of an incident, the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) personnel shall:

1. 
   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. The initial Field FSB Units sworn personnel who initially respond to the scene shall:

3. 
   a. Upon arrival, verify that minimum criteria exist as a credible threat or potential incident;
   b. Take every precaution to reduce the possibility of exposure to themselves, Department personnel, and civilians;
   c. Initiate the Incident Command System and Adhere to the Department’s Training for Incident Command System management, Federal Emergency Management System (FEMA) training, and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training standards;
   d. Notify the chain of command;
   e. Confer with the appropriate AFR Haz-Mat Team personnel with regards to establishing a safe perimeter;
   f. Notify the chain of command; and
   g. Develop an evacuation plan, if necessary; and
   h. Establish a safe outer perimeter.

4. If the minimum criteria for a credible threat are not present, the call taker will advise the caller that the incident does not meet the minimum criteria. The item should be placed in a plastic container or bag and disposed of in a trash receptacle.

5. In the event of an exposure, Department personnel will contact the ECC dispatch and request the AFR Haz-Mat Team for an emergency exposure or call MedCor at (1-800-775-5866) if the exposure is non-emergent.

6. 

Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents

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

Immediate notify their supervisor;

Contact the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) and advise them to contact the Albuquerque Fire Rescue (AFR) Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) Team.
Once the AFR Haz Mat Team is on scene, the employee shall follow all decontamination procedures as determined by AFR personnel.

Request for ECC to dispatch an officer to assist;

Secure the contaminated area until AFR Haz Mat Team clears the scene;

Follow the directives given by the Medcor nurse and Safety Officer; and

Follow up with the City’s Employee Health Center, and bring any medical treatment paperwork related to treatment already received, on the first business day following the exposure.

The officer who assists the employee who was exposed to a biological or chemical agent shall notify their on-duty supervisor.

The supervisor of the employee who was exposed to a biological or chemical agent shall:

Ensure that the Medcor nurse and the Safety Officer (505-850-4511) are notified.

The Medcor nurse and Safety Officer are available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days per week.

The Medcor nurse will determine the employee’s exposure risk and advise them of medical treatment.

G. Hazardous Materials as Evidence

1. If any hazardous materials are needed for evidence, sworn personnel shall contact the 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.