



PROCEDURE

Hazardous Material Emergency Operating

Procedure Administrator: Director of Risk Management and Environmental/Health/Safety
Authority: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Rule (HAZWOPER); 29 CFR 1910.120
Effective Date: August 29, 1994; September 23, 2009
Index Cross-References:
Procedure File Number: 6901
Approved By: Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President

I. PURPOSE:

To ensure that all facility personnel are able to respond effectively to emergencies by familiarizing them with the required training to distinguish between an emergency response and a response to an incidental release, personal limitations, emergency procedures, emergency equipment and emergency systems.

The Right to Know Training Program stresses the importance of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and labeling. The Right to Know Training Program provides an overview for the safe handling, use, storage, clean-up, and disposal of hazardous materials.

Personnel at Stockton University are not trained to respond to a hazardous material release/spill that meets the definition of “Emergency Response” as defined below. In the event of a release/spill a professional emergency response team will be contacted by the University, through the coordinated efforts of the Department of Risk Management, NAMS and Plant Management.

This Emergency Response service is available from Clean Venture, Inc. by calling 1-908-354-0210, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

II. DEFINITIONS

HAZWOPER - Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Rule

“**Emergency response**” or “responding to emergencies” means a response effort by employees from outside the immediate release area or by other designated responders (i.e., mutual aid groups, local fire departments, etc.) to an occurrence which results, or is likely to result, in an uncontrolled release of a hazardous substance.

An “**incidental release**” is a release of a hazardous substance which does not pose a significant safety or health hazard to employees in the immediate vicinity or to the employee cleaning it up, nor does it have the potential to become an emergency within a short time frame. Incidental releases are limited in quantity, exposure potential, or toxicity and present minor safety or health hazards to employees in the immediate work area or those assigned to clean them up. An incidental spill may be safely cleaned up by employees who are familiar with the hazards of the chemicals with which they are working.

The properties of hazardous substances, such as toxicity, volatility, flammability, explosiveness, corrosiveness, etc., as well as the particular circumstances of the release itself, such as quantity, confined space considerations, ventilation, etc., will have an impact on what employees can handle safely and what procedures should be followed. Additionally, there are other factors that may mitigate the hazards associated with a release and its remediation, such as the knowledge of the employee in the immediate work area, the response and personal protective equipment (PPE) at hand, and the pre-established standard operating procedures for responding to releases of hazardous substances. There are some engineering control measures that will mitigate the release that employees can activate to assist them in controlling and stopping the release.

These considerations (properties of the hazardous material, the circumstances of the release, and the mitigating factors in the work area) combine to define the distinction between incidental releases and releases that require an emergency response. The distinction is critical before responding to an emergency.

When, as a consequence of a release of a hazardous material the following conditions, or similar conditions, may develop, such situations would normally be considered emergency situations requiring an emergency response effort:

1. High concentrations of toxic substances.
2. Situation that is life or injury threatening.
3. Imminent Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) environments.
4. Situation that presents an oxygen deficient atmosphere.
5. Condition that poses a fire or explosion hazard.
6. Situation that required an evacuation of the area.
7. A situation that requires immediate attention because of the danger posed to employees in the area.

According to [29 CFR 1910.120\(a\)\(3\)](#) HAZWOPER Maintenance, Incidental Releases, and Emergency Response, responses to “**incidental releases**” of hazardous substances where the substance can be absorbed, neutralized, or otherwise controlled at the time of release by employees in the immediate release area, or by maintenance personnel are not considered to be emergency responses within the scope of the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) standard. Responses to releases of hazardous substances where there is no potential safety or health hazard (i.e., fire, explosion, or chemical exposure) are not considered to be emergency responses

III. LEVELS OF TRAINING

OSHA requires several levels of training, based on the work the employee will be performing and the level of hazard they will be facing. Each level requires a different training program, and OSHA specifies topics and minimum training times before a person is qualified to respond to a hazardous materials emergency.

1. **First Responder Awareness** level requires sufficient training to demonstrate competency in their assigned duties plus refresher training annually.
2. **First Responder Operations** level Awareness level training plus 8 hours training and annual refresher training.
3. **Hazardous Materials Technician** level requires 24 hours training plus additional training to achieve competency in several areas plus refresher training annually.
4. **Hazardous Materials Specialist** level requires 24 hours training at the technician level, plus additional training to achieve competency in several areas plus refresher training annually.
5. **On Scene Incident Commander** level requires 24 hours training plus additional training to achieve competency in several areas plus refresher training annually.

The HAZWOPER standard covers five (5) specific areas of operations, including:

1. Clean-up operations required by a governmental body, whether Federal, state local or other involving hazardous substances that are conducted at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites (including, but not limited to, the EPA's National Priority Site List (NPL), state priority site lists, sites recommended for the EPA NPL, and initial investigations of government identified sites which are conducted before the presence or absence of hazardous substances has been ascertained); **(Not applicable to the RSC)**
2. Corrective actions involving clean-up operations at sites covered by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) as amended (42 U.S.C. 6901 et. seq.); **(Not applicable to the RSC)**
3. Voluntary clean-up operations at sites recognized by Federal, state, local or other governmental bodies as uncontrolled hazardous waste sites; **(Not applicable to the RSC)**
4. Operations involving hazardous waste that are conducted at treatment, storage, disposal (TSD) facilities regulated by 40 CFR Parts 264 and 265 pursuant to RCRA; or by agencies under agreement with U.S.E.P.A. to implement RCRA regulations; **(Not applicable to the RSC)**
5. Emergency response operations for releases of, or substantial threats of releases of, hazardous substances without regard to the location of the hazard. **(Not applicable to the RSC – RSC personnel may only respond to incidental releases after first reviewing the hazardous materials Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for instructions on physical hazards and proper personal protective equipment (PPE). In the event of a release/spill a professional emergency response team will be contacted by the University, through the coordinated efforts of the Department of Risk Management, NAMS and Plant Management. *This Emergency Response service is available from Clean Venture, Inc. by calling 1-908-354-0210, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.***

Approval History:

	Date
President	9/23/09