



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-24

Effective: 01/10/19 Review: 01/10/20 Replaces: 01/13/16

2-24 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT RESPONSE

2-24-1 Policy

Department policy is to respond to hazardous material incidents and provide a maximum amount of safety to officers and citizens.

2-24-2 Definition

A. Hazardous Materials

Those substances which in quantity or form constitute an unreasonable risk to the health and welfare of the public. They fall into the categories of gasses, liquids, explosives, oxidizers, solids, corrosives, poisons, and radioactive materials.

2-24-3 Rules

[7] A. Initial Response

1. Dispatched Officer

- a. From a safe distance, assess the situation by observing Hazardous Material Placards, reviewing shipping papers, interviewing drivers/victims, and make an on-scene evaluation.
- b. When a hazardous condition exists, contact the State Police District Dispatcher and the Albuquerque Fire Rescue Special Hazards Team (HEAT) via APD Communications.
- c. Establish a safe perimeter around the accident/incident scene using additional units as necessary for traffic/crowd control.
- d. Notify the Field Supervisor of the situation.
- e. Conduct the appropriate investigation when it is safe to do so.

2. Field Supervisor

- a. Confer with appropriate Fire Rescue personnel regarding evacuation of the area.
- b. Notify the shift commander.
- c. Meet with the on-scene Fire Chief. The Chief will advise on the type of hazard and what support the Police Department can provide.
- d. Ensure the establishment of a safe outer perimeter.
- e. Notify communications to contact a representative of the Office of Emergency Preparedness.



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[7] B. Contaminated Areas

1. Fire Rescue personnel may define a specific area around a hazardous material incident as being contaminated. Officers are cautioned to remain outside this contaminated area whenever possible.
2. Field Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that involvement of police personnel within a contaminated area is minimized. When possible, vehicles and equipment will be kept outside the contaminated area. When it is necessary to enter this area, carpooling should be considered as well as removal of all unnecessary uniform and leather items. When possible, protective clothing provided by the fire department should be used.

[7] C. Clean-Up and Evacuation

1. The Fire Rescue will have major responsibility for hazardous material cleanup and evacuation operations which will be directed from on-scene command posts they establish. Police assistance will be rendered under the following conditions only:
 - a. When specialized training is provided to officers by Albuquerque Fire and Rescue (AFR) personnel at the scene, as needed.
 - b. When specialized equipment is provided to officers such as breathing apparatus, masks, acid suits, etc.
2. Should the Fire Rescue decide to evacuate an area, they will decide the boundaries of the area to be evacuated and the time available and needed for the evacuation.
3. The Field Services Supervisor will decide on door-to-door contact or the use of the public address systems in patrol cars to inform citizens on evacuation, based on time limits, available manpower, and size of the area to be evacuated.
4. The Field Supervisor will select an area such as a parking lot near a major intersection outside the hazard area and direct all citizens to that point.
5. An officer will be assigned to remain with the citizens until the emergency is over.
6. If the emergency situation is prolonged, the Field Services Supervisor will have Communications advise the Office of Emergency Preparedness representative so that necessary arrangements for transporting the evacuees to shelters can be expedited.



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[7] D. Hazardous Material Identified as an Explosive

If the hazardous material is an explosive or an explosive device, the Department's EOD personnel will be notified per the Bomb Threats and Bomb Emergencies SOP.

[7] E. Pickup or Disposal of Hazardous Waste Material

When officers come in contact with the hazardous waste material (e.g., chemicals and solvents) that do not pose an immediate health hazard, the citizen 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) as provided for in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The EOD personnel will not be called out to pick up or dispose of this type of hazardous material.

[7] F. Hazardous Materials as Evidence

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

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

1. Upon notification of an incident, the APD call taker will conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if the minimum criteria for a credible threat exist.
2. Minimum criteria for credible threat:
 - a. Letter or package with suspicious material present (opened or unopened)
 - b. Excessive tape or string
 - c. Lopsided or uneven shape
 - d. Possibly mailed from a foreign country
 - e. Powder spilling, substance leaking or staining
 - f. Oily stains, discoloration or crystallization on wrappers
 - g. Strange odor
 - h. Protruding wires
 - i. Letter or package with an articulated threat (opened or unopened), substance need not be present
3. If the minimum criteria are met, the call taker will immediately dispatch Field Units and notify the APD Bomb Squad, AFR, and the FBI.



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4. Initial Field Units

- a. Upon arrival to the scene, verify that minimum criteria exist as a credible threat or potential incident.
- b. Take every precaution to reduce the possibility of exposure to personnel and civilians.
- c. Initiate the Incident Command System and notify the Chain of Command.
- d. Confer with the appropriate AFR personnel with regard to establishing a safe perimeter.
- e. Develop an evacuation plan, if necessary.
- f. Ensure the establishment of a safe outer perimeter.
- g. 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.
- h. In the event of an exposure, personnel will dispatch rescue for an emergency exposure or call MedCor (1-800-775-5866) if exposure is non-emergent.