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# THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

<b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	<i>Date Issued: November 1, 2009</i>	<i>Effective Date: November 1, 2009</i>	<i>Order No: Chapter 31.9</i>
<i>Authority: Chief of Police Gregory L. Eyer</i>		<i>Manual Page No:</i>	
<i>Subject: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS</i>			<i>Replaces Page No:</i>
<i>Accreditation Standard: Chapter 46</i>	<i>Distribution: ALL</i>	<i>Amends:</i>	<i>Number of Pages: 5</i>
<i>Related Documents:</i>		<i>Rescinds:</i>	

This Directive is for internal use only, and other than as contraindicated here this Directive does not create or enlarge this Department's, governmental entity's, any of this Department's officers, and/or any other entities' civil, criminal, and/or other accountability in any way. This Directive is not to be construed as the creation of a standard of safety or care in any sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance, litigation, and/or other action. Deviations from this Directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-Departmental administrative action(s) (including discipline and/or termination).

**I. PURPOSE:**

To establish policy and procedure for police actions involving Hazardous Materials Incidents.

**II. DISCUSSION:**

Hazardous Materials Incidents are potentially serious situations which can pose a threat to waterways and the environment, and which can be extremely hazardous to the community as a result of their toxicities and physical/chemical properties. Police officers who respond to reports of Hazardous Materials Incidents are considered "first responders," and although they may be tempted to enter the immediate area of hazardous material emergency, they will serve themselves, the HAZMAT response team, and the community best if they remain upwind, uphill, and a safe distance away from the dangers of a hazardous material release.

**III. POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Thurmont Police Department to make every reasonable effort to ensure the safety of the community, and to effect the proper handling of all calls for service involving a Hazardous Materials Incident through specific procedures and proper notifications. The role of the responding members will be to collect as much information as possible about the incident and the emergency it create, to communicate that information to the proper agencies, and then to take

whatever immediate action is possible to reduce or eliminate the potential losses, including crowd and traffic control. The Fire Department Incident Commander will be in command of the scene and will make requests for any clean up assistance.

#### **IV. DEFINITIONS:**

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL:** a hazardous material is any substance that, if accidentally released from its container, hurts or harms whatever it comes into contact with.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENT:** a hazardous material incident is the release or potential release of a hazardous material from its container into the environment.

**HAZARDOUS WASTES:** discarded materials which are regulated by the EPA because of public health and safety concerns.

#### **V. PROCEDURES:**

- A. When handling a call for service involving a Hazardous Materials Incident, responding police units will not possess adequate clothing and equipment necessary to enter the immediate area of a hazardous material emergency. Therefore, they will initially have Five basic responsibilities:
1. Stay away from the immediate area, remaining upwind and uphill.
  2. Keep others away from the immediate area.
  3. Contact the proper authorities.
  4. Immediately deploy departmentally issued Smart Stripes, and
  5. Attempt to identify the product without entering the area.
- B. Responding units will instruct the dispatchers to contact Central Alarm, who will notify the appropriate HAZMAT Fire Personnel.
- C. Responding units will then follow these more specific procedures:
1. Protect yourself.
    - a. When you first arrive at an emergency scene, it may not be immediately apparent whether or not hazardous materials are involved. You should stop a safe distance upwind and uphill from any incident outside of a structure. Be alert for signs and

symptoms from those already inside the contaminated area.

- b. Rescue of contaminated persons should be left to trained personnel with appropriate protective clothing and equipment.
2. Identify the problem.
  - a. Attempt to determine the exact nature of the problem, including the type of incident (spill, leak, fire, etc.).
  - b. Attempt to determine if any victims are involved.
3. Identify the material name if you can. Use any of the following clues to identify the name of the hazardous material:
  - a. DOT placards.
  - b. Four-digit identification numbers.
  - c. NFPA 704 markings / HMIS markings.
  - d. Product labels and container markings.
  - e. Shipping papers.
  - f. Company name.
  - g. Driver.
  - h. Request Dispatch query Operation Respond.
4. Determine the hazards.
  - a. Once you've identified the four-digit number or the proper name of the material involved, determine the hazard it poses. Refer to your DOT Emergency Response Guidebook.
  - b. Also identify and evaluate any container characteristics, properties or qualities of the material, and environmental conditions (weather, topography, etc.) that could contribute to the hazards inherent to the material.
5. Evacuate and secure the area.

- a. Advise other responding units the safest route to respond and/or stage/
  - b. Evacuate, isolate, and deny entry to the area. Establish an outer perimeter.
  - c. Do not remove anything from the scene, and allow only properly protected personnel to enter the area.
  - d. Constantly monitor wind direction and speed.
6. Coordinate communications with the Fire Department and establish Unified Command.
- a. Establish a command post in an isolated area a safe distance from the scene, upwind and uphill.
  - b. Notify, via the on-scene supervisor, the proper federal, state and local agencies including:
    - i. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – (301-694-1679) for assistance and supervision of clean-up efforts.
    - ii. National Response Center (NRC) – (1-800-424-8802), who will notify appropriate Federal Agencies. (When water may be affected)
    - iii. Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTREC) – (1-800-424-9300) for any transportation-related hazardous incident. CHEMTREC will provide free information about hazardous materials.
7. Conduct a MAARS investigation for all motor vehicle accidents involving hazardous materials.

**ATTACHMENTS :**

**DOCUMENT DATES :**

*Amended Date:*

*Review Date:*

*Review Date:*

*Review Date:*

*Rescinds:*

*Order Written By: Chief Gregory L. Eyer*

*Order Edited and Approved By: Chief Gregory L. Eyer*

*Accreditation Standards Included in this Order*

*CHAPTER 46*