



# SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



## 532.05 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS 11-15-19

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures to be followed when handling incidents involving hazardous materials.

### POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) to work in a unified command with the Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) during hazardous material incidents. A member of the SFD shall assume responsibility for incident command for these events and when necessary SPD shall provide law enforcement staff to support their operation.

### PROCEDURE

#### A. DEFINITIONS

##### Levels of Hazardous Materials

1. Level I Incidents are:
  - a. spills, leaks, ruptures, and/or fires involving hazardous materials which can be contained, extinguished, and/or abated utilizing equipment, supplies, and resources immediately available to first responders of the SFD; and/or
  - b. incidents which require evacuation of civilians within any area of the SFD's jurisdiction.
2. Level II Incidents are:
  - a. hazardous materials which can be contained, extinguished, and/or abated utilizing the resources of the SFD Hazardous Materials Response Team (HAZMAT); and/or
  - b. incidents which require evacuation of civilians within any area of the SFD's jurisdiction; and/or
  - c. fires involving hazardous materials that are permitted to burn for a controlled period of time or are allowed to consume themselves; and/or
  - d. any incident resulting in any injury to a person as a direct result of a hazardous material.
3. Level III Incidents are:
  - a. spills, leaks, and/or ruptures which can be contained and/or abated utilizing the highly specialized equipment and supplies available to environmental or industrial response personnel; and/or
  - b. incidents which require two or more HAZMATs; and/or
  - c. fires involving hazardous materials that are allowed to burn due to:
    - (1) ineffectiveness or danger from the use of extinguishing agents.
    - (2) the unavailability of water.
    - (3) a threat of large container failure.
    - (4) an explosion, detonation, or actual container failure.
  - d. incidents which:
    - (1) require evacuation of civilians extending across jurisdictional boundaries.
    - (2) involve serious civilian injuries or deaths as a result of the hazardous materials.
    - (3) require a multi-agency response.



# SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



4. Incident Commander: Command level personnel responsible for the overall management of an incident.
5. Unified Command: An application of Incident Command Structure (ICS) used when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Agencies work together through the designated members of the Unified Command to establish their designated Incident Commanders at a single Incident Command Post and to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single Incident Action Plan.

## B. GENERAL

1. Under an agreement pursuant to Section 2454 of the California Vehicle Code, the Police Department (SPD) has transferred Incident Commander (IC) responsibility of hazardous material incidents to the SFD for "on road" and "on highway" incidents.

## C. RESPONSIBILITY

SFD and SPD will have a Unified Command and a member of SFD shall assume the role of the overall Incident Commander.

The SFD IC will coordinate with the Watch Commander/IC to address any necessary evacuations, crowd control, traffic control, relocation, and scene security. If a command post is established, the Watch Commander or their designee shall assign a liaison officer. If the SPD Mobile Incident Command Post is deployed to the scene, it should be located within proximity of the SFD command post.

The SFD has responsibility for the identification, handling, and mitigation of all found hazardous materials, except for items to be seized as evidence, pyrotechnics, and explosives. SPD shall only be responsible for hazardous materials when a clandestine laboratory is found.

1. Upon confirmation of a hazardous material incident, SPD shall place its field resources at the command of the SFD IC.
  - a. All safety requirements affecting both civilians and first responder personnel will be established by the SFD IC.
  - b. During Level II and III hazardous materials incidents the Watch Commander shall coordinate the deployment of essential law enforcement resources with the SFD IC.
  - c. The Watch Commander or their designee shall keep the SPD Communications Center informed of relevant information pertinent to the incident.
2. When a hazardous materials incident is reported to SPD, the SPD dispatcher shall immediately request the SFD. Based on available information, Fire dispatch will determine when to alert their HAZMAT.
3. Police personnel at the scene shall:
  - a. establish a perimeter and gather pertinent information to communicate to SFD.
  - b. take precautionary security measures at the scene and coordinate with SFD.
4. The first fire unit to arrive at the scene will:
  - a. identify the type of material involved.



# SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



- b. determine the quantity of material involved.
  - c. consider the possibility of contamination.
  - d. identify any immediate exposure concerns.
5. Once a determination is made, SFD will classify the incident as a Level I, II, or III incident based on the following criteria:
- a. Level of technical expertise required to abate the incident.
  - b. Extent of municipal, county, and state government involvement.
  - c. Extent of evacuation of civilians.
  - d. Extent of injuries and/or deaths.

## D. RESPONSE

1. Police personnel are cautioned against approaching contaminated sites pending the identification of unknown substances.
2. Police personnel responding to a possible hazardous material incident shall establish a perimeter and secure the scene pending the arrival of the SFD.
3. The following safety protocols should be followed:
  - a. APPROACH FROM UPWIND.
  - b. DO NOT WALK NEAR OR TOUCH ANY MATERIAL.
  - c. Refer to Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook on hazardous materials incidents for instructions and/or directions.
  - d. Establish a perimeter, provide crowd control, and prevent unauthorized access to the area.
  - e. Any observable markings, placards, or driver interview information shall be communicated to the SFD IC and the Sector Sergeant or Watch Commander.
  - f. Establish a Command Post, as needed, in conjunction with the SFD Command Post.
  - g. THE GAS MASKS CARRIED BY OFFICERS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT FOR USE WHEN ANY TYPE OF TOXIC FUMES ARE PRESENT.

## E. SFD IC

1. All safety requirements will be established by the SFD IC affecting both civilians and police personnel.
  - a. The SFD may request the SPD to handle an evacuation if it is determined safe to do so.
  - b. If the SFD determines that a hazard exists in an area to be evacuated, the SFD personnel with proper equipment will handle it.
2. Notification of other agencies regarding any hazardous material incident is the responsibility of the SFD.
3. The SPD IC shall ensure Communications is consistently informed of relevant information pertinent to the incident.
4. The SFD IC will be responsible for providing a Public Information Officer (PIO) and coordinating the release of any information to the news media and/or the public. The SPD PIO(s) shall attempt to work in conjunction with SFD in order to assure unified messaging through traditional and social media.
5. On all freeways or approaches to freeways, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) IC will be in charge. The role of the SPD shall be to provide support to the CHP IC.
6. The SPD IC shall be responsible for all reports and forms prepared/required by OOO Order 532.07, "Command Posts".