

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 07.01
	Hazardous Materials Incidents	Effective Date: December 1, 2001 Revised Date: September 5, 2013

I. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to all Queen Anne's County fire service personnel.

II. PURPOSE

- A. To establish guidelines that will be taken when responding to hazardous materials incidents, in order to insure the safety of all Emergency Service Personnel.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All personnel affiliated with a Queen Anne's County Fire Department will be responsible for ensuring strict adherence to this policy.

IV. POLICY

- A. Response to a hazardous material incident will be in accordance with Queen Anne's County Hazardous Materials Box.
- B. Upon arrival of the first unit officer on the scene, the following actions should be taken:
 1. Deny access to the scene.
 2. Attempt to identify the material or materials involved from a safe distance.
 3. Assess the hazard to life and property using the current edition of the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook or other available resources.
 4. Insure that adequate resources are dispatched and responding for the particular incident. Special resources such as MDE, Hazmat Team, etc. should be started as soon as possible based on the information obtained during dispatch or while en route.

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 07.01
		Effective Date: December 1, 2001
	Hazardous Materials Incidents	Revised Date: September 5, 2013

5. Insure that all members responding on the incident have been trained to at least the First Responder Operations Level for Hazardous Materials Incidents.
 6. Insure that personnel are in full protective clothing with SCBA in place and ready for use.
 7. Take the necessary actions to control access to the scene, contain the substance and perform the necessary decontamination, provided that none of these actions expose personnel to the substance.
 8. Notify the proper agencies to acquire the proper personnel and resources to control the release. This Department will not take any action for which it is not properly equipped nor its members trained.
 9. Assess the need for evacuation to protect residents of the affected area.
- C. Fire Departments or EMS personnel will not take any actions to contain the release or rescue individuals trapped when such actions will cause unsafe exposure to the substance by Emergency Service Personnel. The actions of the fire department or EMS personnel will generally be limited to the defensive mode, unless any offensive action can be accomplished safely and within the training level, and personal protective clothing is available. Flammable liquids such as gasoline or flammable gases such as propane are examples of hazardous materials, which may be controlled by the Fire Department or EMS personnel. Large quantities of gasoline, diesel fuel and propane may still require the response of a Hazmat Team with the proper equipment and training for product handling.
- D. Upon receipt of an alarm for a leak, spill or fire involving hazardous materials, the Fire and EMS units will respond to the incident in the appropriate manner. The officer in charge of the first responding unit will attempt to gather any information regarding the material or materials involved such as; the name, type of emergency, any life or property hazard and the exact location from "Queen Anne".
- E. All personnel responding to a known hazardous materials incident **must** be trained to the Hazmat Operations Level as a minimum.

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 07.01
		Effective Date: December 1, 2001
	Hazardous Materials Incidents	Revised Date: September 5, 2013

- F. All individuals responding on an incident involving hazardous materials will have full protective clothing including turnout pants in place before the apparatus leaves the station. Positive pressure SCBA must be available and ready to use by all individuals who are responding to the incident including the apparatus driver/operator.

- G. As the first unit approaches the scene, the Incident Commander will attempt to determine what is involved or confirm previously provided information. This will be accomplished from a safe distance and through the use of binoculars. The first responding unit will stop at a safe distance based on the information provided to gather additional information. The initial safe distance should be according to the DOT Hazardous Materials Guideline Manual. Under no circumstances will any individual go directly to the scene to attempt to identify the substance utilizing unsafe acts.

- H. The Officer in charge of the first arriving unit will become the initial Incident Commander unless the individual passes command. The establishment of command will be consistent with Queen Anne's County Incident Command System Policy.

- I. If the substance is known, the Incident Commander will take appropriate action to direct the first unit uphill and up wind, as appropriate. Once a visual check is made of the incident, IC will refer to the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook for guidance. In order to prevent unnecessary harm due to exposure to the substance, all responding units other than the first unit will be directed to stage at a designated location (level II staging) and await orders from the IC. This includes individuals who respond in privately owned vehicles.

- J. No unit will go directly to the scene of the emergency under any conditions until an assessment has been made of the substances involved, a determination has been made of the appropriate actions to be taken, and receipt of the necessary orders from the IC. The Officer in charge of each responding unit is responsible for the actions of that unit and its personnel and coordination within the command structure.

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 07.01
	Hazardous Materials Incidents	Effective Date: December 1, 2001 Revised Date: September 5, 2013

- K. The IC will advise other responding units as well as “Queen Anne” of the information obtained and give the necessary instructions. The ICS will be implemented and designations made based on need. All communications regarding the incident will flow from units on the scene through the IC to “Queen Anne” and from “Queen Anne” back through the IC. It is important that the IC be kept abreast of information involving the incident so that necessary decisions can be made.

- L. Based on a determination of the material involved, the IC will establish a hot zone, warm zone, a cold zone and a decontamination area. No one will be permitted in these zones or the decon area without the proper protective clothing and equipment for the material or materials involved.

- M. There will be a single entrance to the warm zone and hot zone. The hot zone will be established based on the minimum isolation distance contained in the Emergency Response Guidebook for the material involved. The isolation distance depends on whether the leak or spill is small or large. The warm zone is a combination of the isolation distance and the evacuation distance contained in the ERG. The decontamination area will be at the entrance from the warm zone to the cold zone.

- N. For emergency first responders, the safe area will be restricted to the cold zone unless the guidebook provides different guidance. Normal structural firefighting clothing does not provide protection for working in the warm or hot zones even with positive pressure SCBA. There are, however, certain substances where this level of protection would be adequate. Materials such as propane and other gases may be safely controlled using conventional structural firefighting equipment.

- O. If proper protective clothing is not available, victims will be responsible for rescuing themselves. Emergency first response personnel will not attempt any rescues without the proper protective clothing for the substance involved.

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 07.01
	Hazardous Materials Incidents	Effective Date: December 1, 2001 Revised Date: September 5, 2013

- P. The IC, based on information obtained recommends the necessary action regarding evacuation. The ERG will be used as a basis for determining the extent of the evacuation. The decision for evacuation is the responsibility of the appropriate governmental official for the jurisdiction where the incident has occurred. If such evacuation is warranted, the responding units, which are not required to control access to the warm zone, will be used to evacuate individuals within the evacuation zone. Individuals who must be evacuated will be relocated to a safe area.

- Q. The IC will request the appropriate technical assistance including the Maryland Department of the Environment, manufacturer or shipper's representatives, technical experts and the hazardous materials personnel trained and equipped to contain the release.

- R. A fire suppression unit and an EMS unit will be assigned to assist the hazardous materials team with the erection of the decontamination equipment, dress out and medical monitoring. Emergency response personnel may, if requested by the hazardous materials team; assist with the decon if the protective clothing and equipment available is adequate to perform this function based on the substance involved.

- S. The IC will establish a medical evaluation and treatment area in the cold zone. If needed, the IC will designate an individual to serve as the medical officer who will oversee medical triage, treatment and transportation. All individuals exposed to the substance will be decontaminated prior to exiting from the warm zone. Medical personnel will also monitor pre-entry and post entry vital signs of all personnel operating in the warm and hot zones.

William H. Faust, Chairman
Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission