JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	10-13 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SUBJECT: Hazardous Materials	**REVIEW DATE: Annually - October**
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 13, 2011	**ACTION DATE:**
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: 10-13 July 22, 2008	**AMEND DATE: January 13, 2011**
ACCREDITATION INDEX:	**APPROVED:** Richard A. Pearson **Chief of Police**

I. POLICY

Hazardous materials are routinely transported through the agency's jurisdiction. The possibility, therefore, of an accident involving a vehicle carrying hazardous substances is a reality. The extent of damage from an accident involving toxic or otherwise dangerous substances depends on the response of emergency personnel and their ability to correctly identify and handle such incidents. The agency expects officers to be competent in basic skills and abilities necessary to identify the presence of hazardous materials and perform "awareness level" services. The agency does **not** expect officers to exercise duties or responsibilities beyond the awareness level stage.

II. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for the initial response and investigation of accidents involving vehicles carrying hazardous materials.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Contamination

The direct or indirect contact between officers and a hazardous substance. Officers shall consider contamination to be an injury, which could result in illness or death.

B. Exposure

The concurrent presence of law-enforcement officers and hazardous materials under uncontrolled circumstances. Exposure may result in injury, illness, or death.

1. Officers shall treat exposure as contamination even though no symptoms are evident. Known contamination requires decontamination, medical attention, and monitoring.

C. Hazardous material

Any solid, liquid, or gas, which by its nature can cause injury, illness, death, property damage, or environmental degradation. **Radiological material** meets this definition except that it contains radioactive elements.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. General

Because of the hazard that might exist or may develop through an accident, especially a derailment or overturned vehicle transporting hazardous materials, officers must exercise extreme caution. Therefore, officers shall take the following actions.

1. At the scene of any incident or accident where hazardous materials may be present, officers shall request dispatch to summon the fire department, which shall assume authority and responsibility for emergency procedures.

    a. Officers shall advise dispatch as soon as possible of the exact location of the hazardous materials incident and safe approach routes for emergency vehicles.

    b. Officers shall rescue injured persons at the hazardous materials site **only if** they are properly equipped. Officers shall not unduly risk contamination.

2. If officers discover any evidence of leaking liquid or vapor, they shall assume that an exposure has occurred with possible contamination of people or facilities and shall:

    a. Seal off the area until positive identification can be made by the fire department.

    b. Summon back-up units to establish a perimeter, setting up roadblocks or barricades as appropriate.

    c. Evacuate the area and detain people as necessary.

        i. If the nature of the hazardous materials does not permit approaching the scene, keep **at least 500 feet away.**

        ii. If the hazardous materials incident involves radiological materials, depending on the type of material, officers should keep form **1500 to 3000 or more feet away**. The fire department's Hazmat unit should be consulted.

3. Supervisors shall summon back-up units to establish a perimeter, as necessary, or order evacuation or detention of people. Supervisors shall instruct personnel to avoid **any** contact with liquids or fumes, to eliminate **any** sources of ignition, and not to eat nor drink near the scene. The on-scene supervisor shall construct a command post, if appropriate. The on-scene supervisor shall advise dispatch to notify appropriate command and city personnel, as necessary.

4. Approach the accident scene upwind if possible. If radiological materials are involved, **do not** approach. Await fire department personnel or HAZMAT teams who have special monitoring equipment.

    a. Note that communicable disease protective equipment, leather gloves, or chemical agent gas masks provide limited protection from hazardous materials.

    b. Note that personnel may not be able to recognize hazardous materials immediately, although they are present. Some hazardous gasses are invisible and odorless.

5. The chief shall immediately notify the city manger of the situation and shall keep him advised of any changes.

6. Normal accident investigation procedures shall be suspended until the on-scene authority has given appropriate clearance whereupon the accident shall be investigated and reported.

B. <u>Identification of hazardous materials</u>

Identification of hazardous material by the carrier may be accomplished by the following.

1. Placards

   Placards are displayed at the front, rear, and on both sides of all vehicles (including rail cars) hauling hazardous materials; however, experience has shown that placards are sometimes either not displayed or have misidentified the cargo. Some placards are made of paper, which may have burned before the officer's arrival. When on duty, each patrol officer shall carry a North American Emergency Response Guidebook [NAERG] for identifying placards in use

2. Driver

   When the accident involves a truck, the driver may be able to supply information about the load transported; however, the driver is not required to know a great deal about cargo or emergency measures for handling it except for explosives. In case of explosives, the driver is required to have in possession and be familiar with documents containing procedures to be followed in the event of accident or delay.

3. Shipping papers

   a. Where the hazardous material is transported by truck, the driver is required to have a copy of the shipping papers that show the name of the materials, classification, and quantity. By using these papers and the NAERG, the officer can identify the hazard associated with the material and ways of handling it. Officers shall record the name of the materials, classification information, and quantity. The shipping papers shall be given to the fire department upon their arrival.

   b. Where the hazardous material is transported by rail, the shipping papers will be in the caboose if attached and the engine compartment if not and will have attached to them instructions for handling all hazardous materials on the train. Additionally, a manifest is in the engine listing each car on the train in order from the engine back to the caboose, and the contents of each car. If the conductor is not available or incapacitated when emergency personnel arrive, officers shall obtain the manifest from the engine compartment.

4. Chem-cards

   To supplement the placarding system, many shippers of chemicals provide the drivers with Chem-cards that provide emergency information. Although Chem-cards are subject only to voluntary use, the officer shall ask the driver for them.

5. Each officer's vehicle is furnished with a copy of the U.S. Department of Transportation guidebook on hazardous materials that contains identifying information on chemical products, first-responder hazards, and specific countermeasures.

C. Evacuation

1. When the possibility of an evacuation of all residents or inhabitants of part or the entire city exists, the chief of police or his designee shall consider:

   a. Manpower requirements.

   b. The method of notifying persons to be evacuated (i.e., door to door, PA system, use of local radio stations, reverse 911, etc.).

c. The size of area and number of people living there to be evacuated.

d. Area maps.

e. Use of mass transportation to move evacuated persons.

f. Housing of evacuated persons.

g. Security of evacuated areas to prevent looting, and premature return (the fire chief shall make the decision when it is appropriate for people to return home).

2. The on-scene supervisor shall consult with the HAZMAT team commander on any decision to evacuate an area. The supervisor shall effect the evacuation upon order of the HAZMAT team commander. In the event of evacuation, the supervisor shall proceed to the fire department's command post, ensuring that the following tasks are undertaken.

a. Establish an emergency communications link with appropriate authorities.

b. Evaluate the size of the area and number of people to be evacuated.

c. Assign personnel to notify people through use of a PA system or door-to-door contact.

d. Notify the news media.

e. Arrange for mass transportation.

f. Arrange for temporary housing of evacuees.

g. Arrange for security of evacuated areas.

D. Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs

1. Indicators of a Methamphetamine Lab.

a. A large amount of cold tablet containers that list Ephedrine or Pseudo-ephedrine as ingredients.

b. Jars containing clear liquid with a white or red colored solid on the bottom.

c. Jars labeled as containing Iodine or dark shiny metallic purple crystals inside of jars.

d. Jars labeled as containing Red Phosphorus or a fine dark red or purple powder.

e. Coffee filters containing a white pasty substance, a dark red sludge, or small amounts of shiny white crystals.

f. Bottles labeled as containing Sulfuric, Muriatic or Hydrochloric Acid.

g. Bottles or jars with rubber tubing attached.

h. Glass cookware or frying pans containing a powdery residue.

i. An unusually large number of cans of Camp Fuel, paint thinner, acetone, starter fluid, Lye, and drain cleaners containing Sulfuric Acid or bottles containing Muriatic Acid.

j. Large amounts of lithium batteries, especially ones that have been stripped.

k. Soft silver or gray metallic ribbon (in chunk form) stored in oil or Kerosene.

l. Many matches and/or match books that have the heads of the matches or the strike plates missing.

m. Propane tanks with fittings that have turned blue.

n. Strong smell of urine, or unusual chemical smells like ether, ammonia, or acetone.

2. If an officer encounters any of the above listed items and believes that there might be an active Methamphetamine Lab the officer should follow the following steps:

a. If there is a smell of unusual chemicals like ether, ammonia, or acetone, immediately remove all people including officers from the immediate area to an area where fresh air is available. Officers should ensure that they are upwind, uphill, and upstream of where the chemicals are located.

b. If anyone begins to complain of trouble breathing, headaches, or any similar type of symptoms, contact EMS for a medical evaluation. If an employee has any of these symptoms an injury report should be filled out for documentation.

c. If an officer or any other person was directly exposed to any chemical, contact the Joplin Fire Department to respond to the scene for decontamination procedures.

d. Any officer that is involved with serving a search warrant where there is the possibility of a methamphetamine lab, they shall where an Air Purifying Respirator.

e. Every officer should use due care to limit the amount of time that they are exposed to a methamphetamine lab.

f. Once everyone has been removed from the immediate area of the lab the officer should contact the on-duty supervisor and advise them of what they have located.

g. The on-duty supervisor should then contact the on-duty or on-call narcotics officer to have them respond to the scene for collection of any evidence.

V. COMPLIANCE

Violations of this policy, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action as described in the City of Joplin's Personnel Rules or the Joplin Police Department's Rules and Regulations and General Orders. Members of the Joplin Police Department, while assigned to or assisting other agencies shall comply with this policy.

VI. APPLICATION

This document constitutes department policy, is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form a basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.