



## NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

### STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES



#### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS 400.10

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03-15-21

APPROVED:

*[Signature]*  
Chief of Police

SUPERCEDES: 01-29-19

CFA: 18.03

#### I. PURPOSE

Hazardous materials are stored and transported through our City on a daily basis. In the event of a toxic spill or leak due to negligence, intentional act, or a traffic or freight train accident, the successful protection of life and property will depend largely on the initial response of emergency personnel and their ability to correctly identify and manage such an incident.

#### II. POLICY

To establish safe and proper procedures for the initial NMPD response to incidents involving hazardous materials to protect the wellbeing of officers and other persons from potential harm.

#### III. SCOPE

This policy applies to all sworn members of the Department.

#### IV. DEFINITIONS

**Hazardous Material:** Substance or material capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property.

**Hazardous Material Incident:** Involving one or more hazardous materials that may be leaking, spilled, burning or having a potential release thereof that may endanger life, property and/or the environment.

**2020 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG):** A guidebook intended for use by first responders during the initial phase of a transportation incident involving hazardous materials/dangerous goods. The ERG manual is updated every four years and it is readily accessible by conducting a search for “**ERG**” in PowerDMS.

**Language Clarification:**

- Should: Indicates a general or expected action, absent a rational basis for failing to conform.
- Shall or Will: Indicates a mandatory action.

## IV. PROCEDURES

A. Communications Unit Responsibilities:

1. Upon receipt of a potential hazardous materials call from a civilian, determine:
  - a. Nature of the call and what precipitated the potential hazard.
  - b. The type of substance, if known, or a description.
  - c. Did the incident occur inside or outside a building or on the street?
  - d. Is the hazardous material spilling, leaking or exposed to the air and is it still doing so?
  - e. Is there a fire?
  - f. Is anyone injured? Type of injury and how many?
3. Immediately, upon confirming the existence of a hazardous materials incident, request Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) respond to the scene and notify the Shift Commander.
2. Upon receipt of a call of a hazardous materials incident from MDFR, determine:
  - a. The location of the incident.
  - b. The location of their Command Post.
  - c. The type of substance in question and the safe distance.
  - d. Whether evacuations are being ordered; how large an area?
  - e. From which direction should the scene be approached?
  - f. Notify the Shift Commander immediately of MDFR's notification and directions.

B. First Arriving Officers' Responsibilities:

Responding officers, keeping their own safety in mind, shall attempt to identify the spilled or leaked substance and its explosive, flammable, or poisonous tendencies by referencing their Emergency Response Guidebook.

Responding officers shall:

1. If so, confirm via police radio that a spillage or exposure of a known, or unknown, substance has occurred and notify the Shift Commander, if he/she is not already at the scene.
2. Request MDFR units be dispatched if not on scene.
  - a. Upon arrival, a Hot Zone will be determined by MDFR.
  - b. Persons in the Hot Zone are considered exposed and are to be rescued by MDFR personnel wearing protective clothing.
3. If the incident is the result of a transportation accident, do NOT go to the driver and instruct the driver from a distance to approach you.
  - a. As the driver approaches, ask him/her what occurred, what the cargo is (request the shipping papers) and the cargo's potential hazards.
  - b. If the product is leaking, maintain a distance of at least 20 feet from the driver.
  - c. Do not have physical contact with the driver, as he/she may contaminate you.
4. Officers must also:
  - a. ALWAYS approach a scene upwind (wind blowing behind you). Remain upwind and keep out of low areas where gases could concentrate.
  - b. Prohibit persons from lighting cigarettes or starting any open flames (such as a BBQ grill) in the area.
  - c. DO NOT walk or drive through spillage or vapors.
  - d. Direct traffic away from the area and request back-up units establish a perimeter to exclude pedestrian and vehicular traffic from entering the area.
  - e. Isolate OUTSIDE areas at least 600 feet, and INSIDE areas at least 200 feet in all directions; however, if the substance is identified, and unless otherwise directed by MDFR, refer to the Emergency Response Guide's "Table 1- Initial Isolation and Protective Action Distances," to ascertain the specific

recommended distance for the substance in question.

- f. Deny entry to all unauthorized persons within the perimeter area; that is, persons who are not directly involved in mitigating the incident.
5. If the hazardous material threat is the result of a transportation accident, and the driver is not available, attempt to identify the substance spilled. This can be done through: **CFA 18.03**
- a. The vehicle placard, which includes a four-digit number and is displayed at the front, rear, and both sides of transport vehicles, including freight train trailers hauling hazardous materials. Personnel can identify the material by locating the four-digit number in the Emergency Response Guidebook, which contains some of the following information relating to the color on placards:
    - 1). Red: Flammable and combustible material, whether liquid, solid or gaseous, e.g., gasoline, gasohol, kerosene, or diesel fuel.
    - 2). White: Substance is a severe health hazard, e.g., poison, poison gas, chlorine or corrosive substances.
    - 3). Green: Substance is highly pressurized and could explode in the heat of a fire.
    - 4). Orange: Explosives or blasting agents, e.g., gunpowder or dynamite.
    - 5). Yellow: Substance that may react violently with other chemicals, producing toxic or flammable gases.
    - 6). Blue: Substance that reacts violently with water.
    - 7). Multiple colors: Multiple hazards exist.
  - b. Shipping papers:
    - 1). When hazardous materials are transported by truck and tractor trailers, the driver is required to have a copy of the shipping papers showing the type of materials being transported, its classification, and quantity.

- 2). When hazardous materials are transported by the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) freight trains, the shipping papers (a/k/a “manifest”), kept with the conductor, will have instructions attached for the handling of all hazardous materials on the train. Additionally, the shipping papers list the contents of each trailer in order from the engine to the rear/last trailer.
  - Only FEC trailers containing “significant” hazards are posted with placards; however, other items that may be flammable, such as perfumes, are not. Therefore, any substance spilled or leaking from a train trailer must be approached with caution, if at all necessary.
- 3). During incidents involving possible hazardous materials transported by a local company vehicle, (e.g., pool company, lawn chemical company), contact will be made with the business or company owner for further information while following established guidelines to protect officers and other persons from harm.

C. First-Arriving Supervisor Responsibilities:

1. Establish a Command Post to coordinate resources, if one has not been established by the MDFR.
2. Establish liaison with the MDFR, HAZMAT, and other specialized agencies responding.
3. Notify Public Works Department after consulting with MDFR officials, as additional equipment, sand, etc., may be required. The Public Works Department’s after hours contact number will be kept at Communications.
4. Notification will be made to Chief of Police via chain of command.

D. Safety and Exposure Incidents:

1. Officers at the scene must prevent being exposed to hazardous materials by maintaining the recommended distancing guidelines.
2. If exposed to a hazardous material, members must do the following:
  - a. Remove and isolate all contaminated clothing and shoes.

- b. Bathe thoroughly with running water for at least 15 minutes.
- c. Officers on the perimeter who smell the chemical, see a vapor cloud, or feel ill shall immediately retreat at a distance of a quarter of a mile (minimum), and notify a supervisor of why they are moving, where they are moving to, and if they are in need of medical attention.

E. Coordination with the MDFR:

The MDFR Commander shall have control of the scene upon arrival. He/she shall have immediate authority to:

- 1. Adjust the perimeter.
- 2. Restrict movement into and away from the incident area.
- 3. Advise when to order an evacuation and what areas to evacuate.
- 4. A conflict in orders or plans at the scene shall be resolved by the MDFR Commander and the on-scene Shift Commander.

F. Evacuation:

When the order to evacuate has been given by the MDFR Commander, the on-scene Shift Commander shall:

- 1. Notify the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, via the chain of command.
- 2. Determine if additional personnel are needed.
- 3. Designate sectors and assign officers to notify citizens of the immediate need for an evacuation.
- 4. Attempt to obtain buses to move evacuated persons to safe areas.
- 5. If schools or nursing homes are within the affected area, utilize the facility's staff to contact parents and relatives once they have been transported outside the area.
- 6. Arrange for the security of evacuated areas to prevent looting and the premature return of residents and other persons to the area.
- 7. Arrange for the orderly return of persons to the area once the evacuation order has been lifted.

G. Hazardous Materials in a Structure:

If the suspected hazardous material is located inside a structure, all applicable precautions listed in this policy will be utilized, to include:

1. Establish a perimeter.
2. Do **NOT** turn any appliance or electrical light on or off, as any spark may cause an explosion.
3. Notify the Communications Unit immediately (if not aware already), who will alert other responding units and the Shift Commander.
4. Use a telephone or transmit via police radio from a location away from the hazardous material.
5. Try to gain as much information as possible about the substance. If the hazardous material is suspected to be part of any illegal activity, such as a drug lab, the supervisor on scene will contact the Investigations Unit Commander, who will make notification to the Section Major.
6. Follow the procedures established for evacuations.