



Scarborough Fire Department Scarborough, Maine



Standard Operating Procedures

Book:	Organization
Chapter:	Dispatch
Subject:	1610 – Hazardous Materials / WMD Responses
Revision Date:	10/19/2004
Approved by:	<i>B. Michael Thurlow</i>

PURPOSE

Hazardous Materials spills and releases represent a significant potential risk to the citizens of Scarborough as well as the first responders that need to deal with them. The Scarborough Fire Department has personnel trained for specialized response to hazardous materials incidents. These members belong to the Haz Mat Team as outlined in SOP # 3640. We also participate in the Presumpscot Valley Hazardous Materials / Weapons of Mass Destruction Regional Response Team with members from Gorham, Windham, Westbrook, and Standish. This policy outlines the dispatch procedures for hazardous materials responses both in the Town of Scarborough and as part of the Presumpscot Valley Regional Response Team (RRT).

POLICY

Whenever a call for a potential hazardous material or weapons of mass destruction spill or release is received the public safety dispatcher shall handle the call as outlined in this policy. The procedures are broken down depending on the type of call as outlined below:

- A. Level 2 Chemical or Biological threat
- B. Level 1 Chemical or Biological threat
- C. Regional Response Team Mutual Aid Response

DEFINITIONS

A. Level 2 Chemical Release or Biological threat

This is a situation in which the information received appears to be mainly a concern of a possible threat of a suspicious object or substance. The main factors governing a Level Two response shall be as follows:

- a. The report is of a suspicious package / envelope only
- b. The caller reports no evidence of any spill, leak, or release of the contents.
- c. The caller reports the container is sealed and has not been opened.
- d. The caller does not report any indication of medical problems from occupants.

A Level Two Threat shall be treated as a Police Department function, and will require only a response by the police department. If once on scene the officer suspects the seal to be broken, or the contents released, an upgrade to a Level One response should be requested.

B. Level 1 Chemical Release or Biological threat

This is a situation where the information received appears to be a genuine threat or release of biological or chemical substance. The main factors governing a Level One response shall be as follows:

- a. The caller reports an actual spill, release, or leak from a container, truck, rail car, envelope, or any other vessel.
- b. Powdery or liquid material is leaking from the package or container.
- c. A vapor cloud or gas is either seen or heard escaping from a vessel.
- d. The caller reports people having medical symptoms due to the release.
- e. The caller has received a phone threat in conjunction to receipt of the package.

C. Presumpscot Valley Haz Mat Regional Response Team request

The Scarborough Fire Department is one of the communities that participates in the Presumpscot Valley Haz Mat Regional Response Team and may be called upon to respond anywhere in Cumberland County, and potentially state-wide. Our team consists of Operations, Technician, and Command Level trained individuals. When notified of a request for the regional response team (RRT) follow the procedure and assign the resources listed below under the RRT section:

D. Hazardous Materials Call

The broad definition of a Hazardous Materials call is a chemical or material spill or container release that is a risk to life, property, or the environment.

PROCEDURE

Public Safety Dispatchers shall use the following procedures depending on the type of Haz Mat call that is received.

- A. For a Level 2 chemical release or biological event the dispatcher shall:
 - a. Handle the situation as a police event and dispatch the appropriate resources as dictated in police SOP's.
 - b. Be prepared to upgrade the response to a Level 1 event based upon the feedback from the police officers once they are on-scene and have evaluated the situation.

- B. For a Level 1 chemical release or biological event the dispatcher shall:
 - a. Transmit the call as a full box assignment with all first alarm pieces including the Command Van, Squad 7, and a request for the Haz Mat team.
 - b. Try to determine the extent of the spill, the topography of the scene, and the current weather conditions, including wind direction, to assist the responding units with directions on the best approach to remain up wind and up hill of the situation and a possible staging area until trained personnel arrive on scene and establish command.

- C. For a request from the Presumpscot Valley Hazardous Materials Team (RRT) for the Scarborough Fire Department's assets to the team, the dispatcher shall:
 - a. Transmit Box 9 with the all-call tone for the Command van and members of the Haz Mat team to meet at E5 station for an out-of-town RRT response.
 - b. The request for Scarborough assets should come from Windham, Gorham, or the Cumberland County Sheriff's dispatch centers.

- D. When the local Incident Commander requests assistance from the Presumpscot Valley Hazardous Materials Team the dispatcher shall:
 - a. Contact Windham Fire to dispatch the Haz Mat van from South Windham. Windham Fire will in turn contact the other member communities of Gorham, Westbrook, Windham, and Standish to activate the rest of the regional response team.

REFERENCES

- A. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120
- B. Presumpscot Valley Haz Mat Team mutual aid agreement
- C. Cumberland County mutual aid agreement