

## Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (SWF LEPC)

### Hazardous Materials Response in Rural Areas

#### Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

##### 1.1 Assumptions

- a. This procedure is not all-inclusive but was developed to meet the minimum national standards for response to a hazardous materials incident in rural communities.
- b. The response procedure should be utilized appropriately according to the conditions encountered when arriving at these incidents.
- c. All emergency response personnel have been trained in the use of a National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- d. All emergency response personnel should have an understanding of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association – Statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP).
- e. All emergency response personnel should have been trained, at a minimum, with basic hazardous materials awareness.

##### 2.1 Purpose

- a. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes standard fire/hazardous materials specific strategies. This is meant to provide guidance when dealing with fire/hazardous materials - specific issues and situations in rural areas, and to ensure response activities are consistent, effective, efficient and safe.

##### 3.1 Scope

- a. This procedure applies to those personnel who have responsibilities listed in the Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (SWF LEPC), Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for Hazardous Materials. Furthermore, this procedure is intended for use on any rural response involving hazardous material incident in which extended mutual-aid is needed.

##### 4.1 Training

- a. Personnel, at a minimum, shall be trained to meet the requirements for the first responder at the awareness level, as defined in OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 (q)(i), and meet the competencies in these guidelines taken from NFPA 472, Standards for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents, 2013 edition.
- b. Awareness level personnel shall be persons who, in the course of their normal duties, could encounter an emergency involving hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and who are expected to recognize the presence of the hazardous materials/WMD, protect themselves, call for trained personnel, and secure the area. **(SERC - Guidelines for Awareness Level Training)**

## 5.1 Procedures/Guidelines

### a. Notification

1. Upon receipt of notification of a potential emergency condition, the receiving 911 dispatch emergency communicator will notify the following emergency personnel:
  - i. Appropriate independent fire district or;
  - ii. Dispatcher, County Fire/Rescue;
  - iii. Municipal Fire Departments (as appropriate);
  - iv. Director, County Division of Emergency Management;
  - v. County Sheriff; Municipal Police Departments (as appropriate);
  - vi. Director, Emergency Medical Services Division;
  - vii. Florida Highway Patrol;
  - viii. Department of Environmental Protection; and
  - ix. State Watch Office: 1-800-320-0519 (**Reference: SWF LEPC Plan**)

### b. Initial Assessment

1. The initial transportation accident assessment will be performed by the first arriving emergency response personnel.
2. Responders shall utilize, at a minimum, the Emergency Response Guide to assess actual and potential consequences and provide the results of this assessment to the county warning point in the county where the incident is located.
  - i. This may be the designated incident commander operating from an on-scene command post, or the director of the county Division of Emergency Management operating from the EOC.
3. The results of the assessment will also be reported immediately to local and state emergency response organizations in accordance with Section 4.0 of the Southwest Florida LEPC, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for Hazardous Materials.
4. The lead agency's assessment should include, but is not limited to the following:
  - i. Survey of the incident from a safe location to identify the name, UN/NA identification number, type of placard, or other distinctive marking;
  - ii. Identification of the nature, amount and location of released materials;
  - iii. Identification of potentially responsible parties;
  - iv. Determine the probable direction and time of travel for released materials, recommended planning tools are below;
    - Emergency Response Guide
    - EPLAN
    - SAFER Mobile Response
    - First Responder Support Tool (FIRSTWISER)
  - v. Identification of possible exposure pathways for humans and the environment;
  - vi. Identification of potential impacts on human health and safety, the environment, natural resources and property; and
  - vii. Identification of priorities for protected public health, safety and the environment. (**Reference: SWF LEPC Plan**)

- c. Levels of Response - The chart below provides a guide to assist in determining the severity/extent of a hazardous materials incident as well as resources assistance:

Severity of Incident	Extent of Incident	Resources
<b>Minor</b> – A spill, release, or potential release of a known hazardous substance. No deaths, if injuries, minor in nature.	Limited to initial area of involvement and unlikely to spread.	Resources: Local resources are able to manage the incident.
<b>Moderate</b> – A spill, release, or potential release of a known or unknown hazardous substance. No deaths, if injuries, can be minor to severe.	Release may not be controllable without special resources. Limited areas.	Local Response agencies may need assistance from outside resources.
<b>Severe</b> – A spill, release, or potential release of a hazardous substance with and associated fire, explosion, or toxic/corrosive cloud. Injuries or deaths may have already occurred.	Large area may be impacted possibly impacting essential community services; Extensive environmental contamination is possible.	Local Response agencies will need assistance from outside resources/specialty teams.
<b>Major</b> – A spill or release of a hazardous substance that has resulted in a serious fire, explosion, or environmental contamination over an extended area.	Has an impact over a wide area with the probability that it will spread to a larger area.	Mutual aid will be needed with a need from large number of resources/specialty teams.

- d. Mutual-Aid/Requesting Resources

1. Mutual-Aid shall be requested when there is a release or potential release from a transportation incident that presents an actual or potential threat to public safety or the environment and;
2. Local emergency response personnel have been dispatched, are on scene, and have made an initial assessment of the incident and the incident exceeds local capabilities, therefore instituting a request for mutual-aid by the local authority.
3. Response personnel should operate only at the incident level that matches their knowledge, training, and equipment. If conditions indicate a need for a higher response level then additional personnel, appropriate training, and equipment should be requested.
4. The Regional Specialty Teams are available to respond whenever an incident exceeds local capabilities with technical support, manpower, and specialized equipment.
5. Emergency response personnel shall request mutual-aid under existing local agreements.
6. Emergency response personnel shall also request mutual-aid under the guidance of the Statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP).
  - i. This plan provides central coordination for fire rescue resource response through a regional concept in conjunction with Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 4/9 (Firefighting/Search & Rescue) at the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC); and
  - ii. Catastrophic Disaster Response and Recovery, that supports all fire rescue agencies responding in support of the FFCA SERP; and

- iii. Supports the response to hazardous material incidents in coordination with ESF 10 - Hazardous Materials/Environmental Protection.

**(Reference: SERP)**

7. Statewide Mutual-Aid Agreement

- i. Each fire department is a signatory of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA), and as such, are allowed to participate in cooperative relationships to accept services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds for emergency management efforts.
- ii. Any participating party may request assistance (oral or written) during emergency or disaster. **(Reference: SERP)**

8. Requesting Assistance

- i. When a fire department is affected by an emergency situation locally, the fire chief will request additional assistance from area mutual aid departments.
- ii. When the department is no longer able to obtain the needed assistance from area departments through local mutual aid, requests for Statewide Mutual Aid assistance can be made through the FFCA SERP, by directing such request to their County EOC. The County EOC will complete a Division of State Fire Marshal (DSFM) Request for Assistance (RFA) form, on behalf of the requesting agency, and forward to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

**(Reference: SERP)**

**6.1 Equipment/Resources**

- a. Hazardous materials response equipment, apparatus, and materials shall be determined by the nature and scope of the incident.

Resource: Hazardous Materials Resource Typing			
Component	Metric	Type II Hazardous Materials Resource	Type III Hazardous Materials Resource
Personnel	Staffing	A minimum of 15 hazardous materials technicians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM Officer/Supervisor/Team Leader (1)</li> <li>• Safety Officer (1)</li> <li>• Reference Officer (1)</li> <li>• Logistics Officer (1)</li> <li>• Medical Personnel/Toxmedic (2)</li> <li>• Entry Team Leader (1)</li> <li>• Entry Team (3)</li> <li>• Backup/RIT Team (2)</li> <li>• Decon Leader (1)</li> <li>• Decon personnel (2)</li> </ul>	A minimum of 7 hazardous materials technicians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM Officer/Supervisor/Team Leader (1)</li> <li>• Safety Officer (1)</li> <li>• Entry Team (2)</li> <li>• Backup/RIT Team (2)</li> <li>• Decon Leader (1)</li> </ul>

Resource: Hazardous Materials Resource Typing			
Component	Metric	Type II Hazardous Materials Resource	Type III Hazardous Materials Resource
Team	Safe and Effective Response Operation Incidents	Enhanced Hazardous Materials Response Team that is capable of responding to and mitigating WMD related incidents. 8 team members will respond immediately upon dispatch. 7 team members will be responding with 1 hour.	Standard Hazardous Materials Response Team. All team members will respond immediately upon dispatch.
Team	Areas of Specialization	Trained in the presumptive recognition and identification of chemical/ bio WMD substances	Trained in presumptive testing of toxic industrial agents.
Team	Sustainability	Capable of operating for a 12-hour Period. Teams are to be 72-hour self-sustainable.	Capable of operating for an 8-hour Period. Teams are to be 72-hour self-sustainable.

**\*Additional resources can be found in Attachment A: Local Hazardous Materials Resources**

**7.1 Location**

- a. This procedure shall be used as needed based upon the incident location.

**8.1 References**

- a. Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (February 2017)
- b. Emergency Response Guide (2016)
- c. Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association Statewide Emergency Response Plan (July 2015)
- d. Florida Statewide Mutual-Aid Agreement
- e. Florida State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials – Guidelines for Hazardous Materials Training (2015)
- f. Florida Hazardous Materials Field Operations Guide (January 2011)
- g. FLAHR Typing Policies for Florida’s Hazardous Materials Resources (2005)

### Attachment A: Local Hazardous Materials Resources

Agency	Resource/ Asset Name	Resource/Asset Description
Fort Myers Fire Department	HazMat 6A/ Type I HM/WMD Team	42 HM Techs/ 8 Techs immediately, 15 for state response
	Hazmat 15, Truck and Trailer	Initial Mitigation Unit for HM/WMD Response
	Decon 14, Truck and Trailer combo	Decon Unit for Mass casualty (Technical and Gross)
	Boom Trailer	Oil spill response asset for water way response
	Engine 15	ALS Engine, 1250 gpm, 750-gallon water tank
	Marine 11	Marine unit for boom response within city limits
Charlotte County Fire-EMS	HM6 - Hazardous Materials Team	Deployable Type II hazardous materials response team with limited chemical weapon identification. Capable of responding to surrounding counties
	LTRT - 634	Deployable light technical rescue team. Capable of being deployed to surrounding counties
San Carlos Park Fire District	Engine 51	750-gallon water tank, 1250 GPM, 15 gallons AR-AFFF / Advanced Life Support (ALS)
	Engine 52	750-gallon water tank, 1250 GPM, 15 gallons AR-AFFF / ALS
	Engine 53	750-gallon water tank, 1250 GPM, 15 gallons AR-AFFF / ALS
	Ladder 53	75' Aerial, 500-gallon water tank, 2000 GPM, 15 gallons AR-AFFF / ALS
	Tower 54	100' Aerial, 400-gallon water tank, 2000 GPM, 15 gallons AR-AFFF
	Rescue 51	300-gallon water tank, 180 GPM, 5 gallons AR-AFFF / ALS
Sarasota County Fire Department Special Operations Team	Type I Hazardous Materials Team / HM6B	50 Hazardous Materials Technicians / 15 Tox-Medics Minimum of 8 technicians on shift each day, able to deploy 15 technicians within hour
	Technical Rescue capabilities; Non-deployable as State asset but will respond for mutual-aid	FLUSAR Certified in rope rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, VMR, and structural collapse. Are equipped for all 5 disciplines but we do not have a deployment number for TRT.
	Squad 8 (First out unit)	HazMat/Chemical/Biological/Radiological identification capabilities, chemical protective garments, technical decon system, PAPR's, remote weather station, absorbent boom and pads
	Squad 9 (Reserve unit)	HazMat/Chemical/Biological/Radiological identification capabilities, chemical protective garments, technical decon system, PAPR's, absorbent boom and pads
	Special Op's 8 (Tow vehicle)	Entry Link system, portable repeater for 800 radio system, portable generator, satellite
	HazMat Trailer	Kabota, multiple garments, PAPR's w/ cartridges, spare portable radios, items needed for deployment
	Decon Trailer	Mass Decontamination Shower system, water heater,
	Technical Rescue Trailer	Trench panels, lumber, tools
	Foam Trailer	200 gallons of 1% - 3% class "B" foam, expansion nozzles, boom, absorbent pads
	Air Truck 8	Air and light truck