

Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan
Washoe County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program

SECTION 8: TRAINING AND EXERCISE PROGRAM

Section 8 contains requirements for training and exercising the HAZMAT preparedness and response. See Annex H: LEPC Training and Exercise.

8.1 Incident Critique

The Incident Commander (IC) will host and facilitate a critique following hazardous materials incidents as per (29CFR1910.120(q)). The IC will prepare an after-action report and distribute it to those agencies involved in the hazardous materials incident upon request.

8.2 Training

Initial and refresher training will be consistent with the provisions of OSHA 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CRF) 1910.120(q) and Guidelines for Public Sector Hazardous Materials Training. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Chairman will notify holders of this plan of training opportunities associated with hazardous materials emergency response sponsored by the LEPC.

- This plan will be exercised at least annually. The LEPC Chairman will conduct hazardous materials emergency response exercises in accordance with its annual exercise schedule and distribute an after action report to LEPC members.
- Agencies having assigned responsibilities under this plan must ensure their personnel are properly trained to carry out these responsibilities.
- Individual agencies are responsible for maintaining training records.

8.2.1 Hazardous Materials Response Teams

SARA Title III and OSHA mandates that all emergency personnel who respond to a hazardous materials incident shall be trained to the level that he/she is expected to perform at the incident. The following training standards list the minimum requirements set by OSHA 1910.120(q) for the various levels of training. There are five recognized training and competency levels:

1. First Responder Awareness
2. First Responder Operational
3. Hazardous Material Technician
4. Hazardous Materials Specialist
5. On-Scene Incident Commander

8.2.2 Certification

Department certifications are issued by the responsible agencies for their respective personnel.

8.2.3 Training Authorities

Per OSHA 29 CRF 1910.120(q)(6), training shall be based on the duties and function to be performed by each responder of an emergency response organization. The skill and knowledge levels required for all new responders, those hired after the effective date of this standard, shall be conveyed to them through training before they are permitted to take part in actual emergency operations on an incident. Employees

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who participate or are expected to participate in emergency response shall be given training in accordance with the following descriptions:

Number and symbol definitions:

- 1910.120 = OSHA Standard Number.
- q = Subsection Letter, q is the letter for Training, letters go from a to q
- 6 = number of subsection in q
- i = roman numeral numbers, subsection of the number 6
- A = subsection letter of the roman numeral number i

(q)(6)(i) First Responder Awareness Level:

First responders at the awareness level are individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the release. They would take no further action beyond notifying the authorities of the release. First responders at the awareness level shall have sufficient training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas:

- (q)(6)(i)(A)** An understanding of what hazardous substances are and the risks associated with them in an incident.
- (q)(6)(i)(B)** An understanding of the potential outcomes associated with an emergency created when hazardous substances are present.
- (q)(6)(i)(C)** The ability to recognize the presence of hazardous substances in an emergency.
- (q)(6)(i)(D)** The ability to identify the hazardous substances, if possible.
- (q)(6)(i)(E)** An understanding of the role of the first responder awareness individual in the employer's emergency response plan including site security and control and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook.
- (q)(6)(i)(F)** The ability to realize the need for additional resources- and to make appropriate notifications to the communication center.

(q)(6)(ii) First Responder Operations Level:

First responders at the operations level are individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release. They are trained to respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposures. First responders at the operational level shall have received at least eight hours of training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas in addition to those listed for the awareness level and the employer shall so certify:

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- (q)(6)(ii)(A) Knowledge of the basic hazard and risk assessment techniques.
- (q)(6)(ii)(B) Know how to select and use proper personal protective equipment provided to the first responder operational level.
- (q)(6)(ii)(C) An understanding of basic hazardous materials terms.
- (q)(6)(ii)(D) Know how to perform basic control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available with their unit.
- (q)(6)(ii)(E) Know how to implement basic decontamination procedures.
- (q)(6)(ii)(F) An understanding of the relevant standard operating procedures and termination procedures.

(q)(6)(iii) Hazardous Material Technician:

Hazardous materials technicians are individuals who respond to releases or potential releases for the purpose of stopping the release. They assume a more aggressive role than a first responder at the operations level in that they will approach the point of release in order to plug, patch or otherwise stop the release of a hazardous substance. Hazardous materials technicians shall have received at least 24 hours of training equal to the first responder operations level and in addition have competency in the following areas and the employer shall so certify:

- (q)(6)(iii)(A) Know how to implement the employer's emergency response plan.
- (q)(6)(iii)(B) Know the classification, identification, and verification of known and unknown materials by using field survey instruments and equipment.
- (q)(6)(iii)(C) Be able to function within an assigned role in the Incident Command System.
- (q)(6)(iii)(D) Know how to select and use proper specialized chemical personal protective equipment provided to the hazardous materials technician.
- (q)(6)(iii)(E) Understand hazard and risk assessment techniques.
- (q)(6)(iii)(F) Be able to perform advance control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available to the unit.
- (q)(6)(iii)(G) Understand and implement decontamination procedures.
- (q)(6)(iii)(H) Understand termination procedures.
- (q)(6)(iii)(I) Understand basic chemical and toxicological terminology and behavior.

(q)(6)(iv) Hazardous Materials Specialist:

Hazardous materials specialists are individuals who respond with and provide support to hazardous materials technicians. Their duties parallel those of the hazardous materials technician; however, those duties require a more directed or specific knowledge of the various substances they may be called upon to contain. The hazardous materials specialist would also act as the site liaison with federal, state, local, and other government authorities in regards to site activities. Hazardous materials specialists shall have received at least 24 hours of training equal to the

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technician level and in addition have competency in the following areas and the employer shall so certify:

- (q)(6)(iv)(A) Know how to implement the local emergency response plan.
- (q)(6)(iv)(B) Understand classification, identification, and verification of known and unknown materials by using advanced survey instruments and equipment.
- (q)(6)(iv)(C) Know the state emergency response plan.
- (q)(6)(iv)(D) Be able to select and use proper specialized chemical personal protective equipment provided to the hazardous materials specialist.
- (q)(6)(iv)(E) Understand in-depth hazard and risk techniques.
- (q)(6)(iv)(F) Be able to perform specialized control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available.
- (q)(6)(iv)(G) Be able to determine and implement decontamination procedures.
- (q)(6)(iv)(H) Have the ability to develop a site safety and control plan.
- (q)(6)(iv)(I) Understand chemical, radiological, and toxicological terminology and behavior.

(q)(6)(v) On-Scene Incident Commander:

Incident Commanders who will assume control of the incident scene beyond the first responder awareness level shall receive at least 24 hours of training equal to the first responder operations level and in addition have competency in the following areas and the employer shall so certify:

- (q)(6)(v)(A) Know and be able to implement the employer's incident command system.
- (q)(6)(v)(B) Know how to implement the employer's emergency response plan.
- (q)(6)(v)(C) Know and understand the hazards and risks associated with employees working in chemical protective clothing.
- (q)(6)(v)(D) Know how to implement the local emergency response plan.
- (q)(6)(v)(E) Know of the state emergency response plan and of the Federal Regional Response Team.
- (q)(6)(v)(F) Know and understand the importance of decontamination procedures.

(q)(7) Trainers:

Trainers who teach any of the above training subjects shall have satisfactorily completed a training course for teaching the subjects they are expected to teach, such as the courses offered by the U.S. National Fire Academy, or they shall have the training and/or academic credentials and instructional experience necessary to demonstrate competent instructional skills and a good command of the subject matter of the courses they are to teach.

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(q)(8) Refresher Training:

- (q)(8)(i)** Those employees who are trained in accordance with paragraph (q)(6) of this section shall receive annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies, or shall demonstrate competency in those areas at least yearly.
- (q)(8)(ii)** A statement shall be made of the training or competency, and if a statement of competency is made, the employer shall keep a record of the methodology used to demonstrate competency.

8.2.4: Documentation

All hazardous materials specific training shall be documented by the respective agency.

8.2.5: National Incident Management System (NIMS)

LEPC and Washoe County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program (WCEM) implemented NIMS and made NIMS compliance a priority. The Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan has been updated to reflect the change as put forth by the NIMS-INTEGRATIONS CENTER (NIC-2005) and is committed to follow the evolutionary process as it evolves in future years. LEPC and WCEM recognize this is a “work in progress” issue and are firmly committed to keeping the county and its citizens, first responders, and adjacent entities involved in this process.

Washoe County has met or exceeded all NIMS compliance goals so far to include:

- Emergency Manager or his designee shall complete the National Incident Management System Introduction online course IS 700.
 - Date completed June 2004.
- Formally recognizing NIMS and adopting NIMS principles and policies. The county will establish an Executive Order or Resolution officially adopting NIMS.
 - Date completed, April 2005.
- Establish a baseline by determining which of the NIMS requirements the county already meets and have implemented the concepts as identified in NIMS.
 - Completed 08-16-2005.
- Establish a timeframe and develop a strategy for full NIMS implementation.
 - See as listed above 08-16-2005.
- Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) consistent with the principles as taught by Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
 - The county first responders are currently using the ICS and offers yearly ICS classes to be consistent with DHS-NIC-NIMS.