ACT FIRE BRIGADE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE No. 15

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

LEGISLATION & STANDARDS:

Fire Brigade Act 1957, Sections 4, 7, 9.
Fire Brigade Regulations 5B
Dangerous Goods Act 1984
Hazardous Materials Sub Plan (ACT Emergency Plan)
Memorandum of Understanding – Hazardous Materials Spillage
The Australian Fire Competency Standards
Staff Minute 1995-96 / 1

OBJECTIVES:

To provide guidance regarding:-

1. The safe and effective management of Hazardous Materials Incidents.

2. Command of ACT Fire Brigade resources at Hazardous Materials incidents.

3. Control and co-ordination of the resources of the Emergency Services Bureau and other agencies at Hazardous Materials incidents.

RESPONSE:

FIRST ALARM		SECOND ALARM		THIRD ALARM		FOURTH ALARM	
Response	**Notify**	**Response**	**Notify**	**Response**	**Notify**	**Response**	**Notify**
1 Pumper H, BA	DO, Pol, Amb, DGI, EPA	2 Pumpers DO Decon Trl	Supt BAO	2 Pumpers Supt, BAO	F.C. Recall	2 Pumpers	F.C. Recall

NOTE: ***See Attachment A for response to CBR incidents`***

Additional Response:

Determined by the Combat Area Controller based on assessment.
On receipt of further information the Comcen supervisor may upgrade the alarm level. The Comcen Supervisor shall not downgrade the initial response. The response to an incident can only be downgraded by the Combat Area Controller after performing an assessment on site.

Additional Response Issues:

The Combat Area Controller may modify response after considering:

- The nature of the incident on arrival (leak, fire, damage to container with no leak).
- Information received from on-site plant staff/manifest.
- Extent of spillage/plume (environmental impacts).
- Runoff and containment considerations.
- Number of Casualties/potential casualties.
- Number and type of exposures in close proximity.
- Topography / Weather.
- Water Supply.
- Traffic.
- Safety of Personnel and Public.
- Need for evacuation.

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES:

The Officer on the first arriving appliance will assume the role of Combat Area Controller and is responsible for operations within the Combat Area, (Hot and Warm Zones).

The incident must be approached with caution, having regard to available information. Any approach should be made from upwind and the appliance should be positioned at least 100 metres from the site. (Appliance Binoculars are to be used to assess situation).

- Upon arrival, transmit arrival message including exact location and situation of appliance.
- Obtain a detailed description of the material involved and the nature of the incident eg. spillage, gas leakage, radioactive material, etc. This may be available through on-site experts or via transport/storage manifest, placarding, class labels, chemical database and D.O.T. manual.
- Complete the Hazmat Action Guide (HAG) sheet.
- Secure the area.
- Establish the Hot, Warm and Cold Zones and instigate BA Staging. (see attachment B).

- Consider the need for rescue / evacuation.
- Assess the situation by considering the following:-
    - is there a fire?
    - is there a spill / leak. What is the extent?
    - is containment / neutralisation necessary?
    - what are the weather conditions?
    - what is the topography?
    - what is at risk - people, property or the environment? how significant is the risk - based on the situation and the hazards associated with the material?
    - what resources are required?.
- Transmit a Sitrep and upgrade response as necessary. Obtain expert advice as required eg. EPA, Chemists, Radiation Section, Industry experts.
- Establish liaison with AFP who are in control of overall incident scene, (Field Controller). [At small incidents or in early stages of larger incidents, ACTFB may undertake Field Controller function].
- Establish a Decontamination Zone.
- Combat incident and conduct decontamination as appropriate.
- Arrange for disposal of material, in conjunction with EPA, Waste Management and industry experts.
- Compile a list of all people, including staff, who may have been exposed to the material and complete and attach health identification wrist tags to each person on the list. Exposure records to be filled out.
- DO to notify parties to Hazmat Spillage MOU by FAX proforma
- Combat Area Controller and/or Environment ACT and/or Health Protection Service are responsible for declaring the area safe.
- Consideration shall be given to:
    - Critical Incident Stress management
    - Debrief post incident
    - Recording and Reporting
    - Coroners requirements/reports

ATTACHMENT A

Terrorist related Chemical, Biological & Radiological Incidents

(CBR)

OBJECTIVES:

To provide guidance regarding;

1. The safe and effective management of Chemical, Biological & Radiological terrorist incidents

RESPONSE:

FIRST ALARM		SECOND ALARM		THIRD ALARM		FOURTH ALARM	
Response	**Notify**	**Response**	**Notify**	**Response**	**Notify**	**Response**	**Notify**
2 Pumpers H, BA, DO, BAO	Supt, Pol, Amb, EPA, Health	2 Pumpers Supt Decon Trl	FC	2 Pumpers	Recall	1 Pumper	Recall

ADDITIONAL RESPONSE:

Consideration should be given to responding a pumper to the Canberra & Calvary Hospitals to assist with decontamination of self presenters.

ADDITIONAL CBR RESPONSE ISSUES:

- Detection and identification of agent
- Super-toxic nature of agent involved
- Presence of hostile persons
- Number of casualties/potential casualties
- Mass casualty decontamination
- Political nature of event
- Security of area

ADDITIONAL CBR OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES:

- Establish liaison with Police
- Restrict entry to Hot Zone to personnel wearing Fully Encapsulated Chemical Suits
- Establish a Decontamination Zone for Civilian Casualties
- Establish a Decontamination Zone for Responders
- Preservation of scene

ATTACHMENT B

Stylised Site Layout