

YORK-POQUOSON SHERIFF'S OFFICE	GENERAL ORDERS
SUBJECT: Hazardous Materials	NUMBER: GO 2-24
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18 **POLICY**

19

20 Hazardous materials are routinely transported through York County by ship, truck, and train,

21 pipeline. Portions of York County may also be affected by Surry Nuclear Power Plant incidents.

22 Hazardous materials may also be encountered through illicit narcotics manufacturing; therefore, the

23 chance of an incident involving hazardous substances is a real possibility. The extent of damage

24 from an incident involving toxic or otherwise dangerous substances depends on the response of

25 emergency personnel and their ability to correctly identify and handle such incidents. While fire

26 department and HAZMAT personnel may be primarily responsible for containment and clean-up of

27 hazardous materials incidents, the Sheriff expects deputies to be competent in basic skills and

28 abilities necessary to identify the presence of hazardous materials and perform "first responder"

29 services. The Sheriff does not expect deputies to perform duties or responsibilities beyond the first-

30 responder stage or their level of training.

31

32 **PURPOSE**

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34 To establish procedures for the initial response and investigation of incidents involving hazardous

35 materials.

36

37 **DEFINITIONS**

- 38
- 39 • Contamination

- 40 ○ The direct or indirect contact between the responder or other persons or equipment used
- 41 by the responder and a hazardous substance.
- 42 ○ Deputies shall consider contamination to be an injury, which could result in illness or
- 43 death.
- 44 ○ Known contamination may require specialized decontamination and medical attention
- 45 and monitoring.
- 46
- 47 ● Exposure
- 48 ○ The concurrent presence of deputies or other persons and hazardous materials under
- 49 uncontrolled circumstances.
- 50 ○ Exposure may result in injury, illness or death.
- 51 ○ Deputies shall treat exposure as contamination even though no symptoms are evident.
- 52 ○ Known exposure may require specialized decontamination and medical attention and
- 53 monitoring.
- 54
- 55 ● Hazardous Materials
- 56 ○ May be any substance which by its nature can cause injury, illness, death, property
- 57 damage, or environmental degradation. Hazardous materials may be in the following
- 58 forms:
- 59 ▪ Biological material,
- 60 ▪ Gaseous,
- 61 ▪ Liquids,
- 62 ▪ Solids, or
- 63 ▪ Radiological
- 64

65 **PROCEDURES**

- 67 ● General
- 68 ○ Personnel may not be able to recognize hazardous materials immediately, although they
- 69 are present.
- 70 ○ Some hazardous gasses are invisible and odorless.
- 71 ○ Because of the hazard, which might exist or may develop through an incident, especially
- 72 a derailment, overturned vehicle transporting hazardous materials, pipeline breach or the
- 73 manufacturing of illicit narcotics, deputies must exercise extreme caution.
- 74 ○ Deputies shall take the following actions:
- 75 ▪ At the scene of any incident or accident where hazardous materials may have been
- 76 exposed, deputies shall request dispatch to summon the fire department, which shall
- 77 assume authority and responsibility for the emergency incident.
- 78 ▪ Deputies shall advise dispatch as soon as possible of the exact location of the
- 79 hazardous materials incident and safe approach routes for emergency vehicles.
- 80 ▪ Deputies shall rescue injured persons at the hazardous materials site only if they are
- 81 properly equipped.
- 82 ▪ Deputies shall not unduly risk themselves to contamination.
- 83 ▪ If deputies discover any evidence of leaking liquid or vapor, they shall assume that
- 84 an exposure has occurred with possible contamination of people or facilities and
- 85 shall:

- 86 ❖ Approach the accident scene upwind if possible.
- 87 ❖ Attempt to identify and report, by placard, the type of hazardous material
- 88 present.
- 89 ➤ Deputies must be aware that they may not be able to approach close enough,
- 90 without risking themselves to exposure, to visually see the hazardous
- 91 material placard.
- 92
- 93 ❖ If radiological materials are involved, do not approach.
- 94 ❖ Wait for fire department or HAZMAT team arrival which has special monitoring
- 95 equipment available.
- 96 ❖ Seal off the area until positive identification of the hazardous material can be
- 97 made.
- 98 ❖ Summon back-up units to establish a perimeter, setting up roadblocks or
- 99 barricades as appropriate.
- 100 ❖ Evacuate the area and detain people as necessary.
- 101 ➤ Refer to the U. S. Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guide
- 102 for initial isolation and protective actions distances based on type of hazard.
- 103
- 104 ❖ Notify incident command and their supervisor if the deputy has been or believes
- 105 they have been exposed to a hazardous material.
- 106 ❖ If exposed to or contaminated by a hazardous material:
- 107 ➤ Report the exposure to your supervisor and incident command.
- 108 ➤ Follow instruction given by incident command, HAZMAT personnel and or
- 109 medical personnel.
- 110 ➤ Avoid cross contaminating other people.
- 111
- 112 ○ Supervisor responsibilities:
- 113 ■ Supervisors shall request back-up units to establish:
- 114 ❖ A perimeter, as necessary.
- 115 ❖ Conduct evacuations, if ordered.
- 116
- 117 ■ Establish a command post, if appropriate.
- 118 ■ Initiate Workers Compensation paperwork as necessary.
- 119 ■ Supervisors shall instruct personnel to:
- 120 ❖ Avoid any contact with liquids or fumes,
- 121 ❖ Eliminate any sources of ignition,
- 122 ❖ To not eat nor drink near the scene.
- 123 ❖ The on-scene supervisor shall advise dispatch to notify appropriate command
- 124 and county personnel, as necessary.
- 125
- 126 ○ Dispatcher responsibilities
- 127 ■ The dispatcher shall contact key agencies, as specified in the York County
- 128 Emergency Operations Plan, relaying the following information:
- 129 ❖ Location of incident or accident.
- 130 ❖ Nature and type of hazardous material involved.
- 131 ❖ Shipper (if known) of hazardous material.

- 132 ❖ Type of environment (business district, rural area, etc.).
- 133 ❖ Size of container and estimated amount of material discharged or leaked.
- 134 ➤ Location of hazardous material car (if a train), counted from the head of the
- 135 train, car number, and description.
- 136 ➤ The serial number of any aircraft, if involved.
- 137
- 138 ○ The Sheriff or his designee shall notify immediately the County Administrator of the
- 139 situation and shall keep him advised of any changes.
- 140
- 141 ● Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Zones
- 142 ○ Hazmat zones may be established and change based on the following:
- 143 ▪ Current and anticipated environmental conditions;
- 144 ▪ Type and nature of hazmat incident.
- 145
- 146 ○ Hazmat personnel shall designate the following:
- 147 ▪ Equipment and training requirements for entry into hazmat zones.
- 148 ▪ Hot Zones
- 149 ❖ Areas where exposure to hazardous materials will occur and result in likely
- 150 injury or death.
- 151 ❖ Only authorized those personnel who are specially trained and equipped should
- 152 enter hot zones.
- 153
- 154 ▪ Warm Zones
- 155 ❖ Areas where exposure to hazardous materials is likely.
- 156 ❖ Decontamination areas are typically established in warm zones.
- 157 ❖ Only personnel who are properly trained and equipped should enter warm zones.
- 158
- 159 ▪ Cold Zones
- 160 ❖ Safe areas where any exposure is unlikely.
- 161 ❖ No protective equipment is needed in cold zones.
- 162
- 163 ● Protective Equipment
- 164 ○ Communicable disease protective equipment such as latex gloves, Tyvek suits and
- 165 surgical masks may not provide protection from hazardous materials other than
- 166 biological materials.
- 167 ○ Gas masks with filters for chemical agents such as OC or CS gas will not provide
- 168 adequate protection in most hazardous materials areas.
- 169 ○ Deputies shall not knowingly enter designated warm or hot zones unless properly
- 170 equipped and trained.
- 171
- 172 ● Identification of hazardous materials
- 173 ○ Identification of hazardous material by the carrier may be accomplished by the
- 174 following:
- 175 ▪ OSHA/DOT Placards
- 176 ❖ Placards are displayed at the front, rear, and on both sides of all vehicles
- 177 (including rail cars) hauling hazardous materials; however, experience has

- 178 shown that placards are sometimes either not displayed or have misidentified the
179 cargo.
- 180 ❖ Some placards are made of paper, which may have burned before the deputy's
181 arrival.
 - 182 ❖ When on duty, each patrol deputy shall carry a current Emergency Response
183 Guide Book to identify placards in use.
 - 184 ❖ Placard color and corresponding hazardous material may be found at the
185 following link:
 - 186 ➤ [https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/docs/Hazardous_Materi](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/docs/Hazardous_Materials_Markings_Labeling_and_Placarding_Guide_508CLN.pdf)
187 [als_Markings_Labeling_and_Placarding_Guide_508CLN.pdf](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/docs/Hazardous_Materials_Markings_Labeling_and_Placarding_Guide_508CLN.pdf)
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- 189 • Driver
 - 190 ○ When an accident involves a truck, the driver may be able to supply information about
191 the load transported; however, the driver is not required to know a great deal about cargo
192 or emergency measures for handling it except for explosives.
 - 193 ○ In case of explosives, the driver is required to have in possession and be familiar with
194 documents containing procedures to be followed in the event of accident or delay.
195
 - 196 • Shipping papers
 - 197 ○ Where the hazardous material is transported by truck, the driver is required to have a
198 copy of the shipping papers, which show the name of the materials, classification, and
199 quantity.
 - 200 ○ By using these papers and the Emergency Response Guidebook, the deputy can identify
201 the hazard associated with the material and ways of handling it.
 - 202 ○ Deputies shall record the name of the materials, classification information, and quantity.
 - 203 ○ Where the hazardous material is transported by rail, the shipping papers will be located
204 in the engine and will have attached to them instructions for handling all hazardous
205 materials on the train. Additionally, a manifest is located in the engine listing each car
206 on the train and its contents in order from the engine back.
 - 207 ○ If the conductor is not available or incapacitated when emergency personnel arrive,
208 deputies shall obtain the manifest from the engine compartment.
209
 - 210 • MSD Sheets
 - 211 ○ To supplement the placard system, many shippers of chemicals provide the drivers with
212 Materials Handling Safety and Data Sheets (MSD Sheets), which provide emergency
213 information.
 - 214 ○ Although MSD sheets are subject only to voluntary use, the deputy shall attempt to ask
215 the driver for them.
216
 - 217 • U.S. Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook
 - 218 ○ Each deputy's vehicle shall be equipped with a copy of the U.S. Department of
219 Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook, which contains identifying
220 information on chemical products, first-responder precautions, and specific
221 countermeasures.
 - 222 ○ The most recent version of Emergency Response Guide as well as up to date corrections
223 to the guide can be found at the following link:

- 224 ▪ <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/erg/emergency-response-guidebook-erg>
225
- 226 • Evacuation
- 227 ○ When the possibility of an evacuation of residents or inhabitants of part or all of the
228 county exists, the following shall be considered:
- 229 ▪ Manpower requirements.
- 230 ▪ The method of notifying persons to be evacuated (i.e., door to door, PA system, use
231 of social media or other online venues or local television and radio stations, etc.).
- 232 ▪ The size of area and number of people living there to be evacuated.
- 233 ▪ Area maps.
- 234 ▪ Use of mass transportation to move evacuated persons.
- 235 ▪ Housing of evacuated persons, where possible, at designated shelters.
- 236 ▪ Security of evacuated areas to prevent looting, and premature return.
- 237 ▪ The Incident Commander, in consultation with appropriate authorities, shall make
238 the decision when it is safe for people to return home.
- 239
- 240 ○ The on-duty supervisor shall consult with the Incident Commander on any decision to
241 evacuate an area.
- 242 ○ The on-duty supervisor shall effect the evacuation upon order of the Incident
243 Commander.
- 244 ○ In the event of evacuation, the supervisor shall ensure that the following tasks are
245 undertaken:
- 246 ▪ Establish an emergency communications link with appropriate authorities.
- 247 ▪ Assign personnel to notify people through use of a PA system or door-to-door
248 contact.
- 249 ▪ Notify the Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer.
- 250 ▪ Arrange for security of evacuated areas.
- 251
- 252 • Key Contact Agency Information Requirements
- 253 ○ Key contact agencies and persons are available for evaluation and assistance in the
254 handling of hazardous material incidents and evacuation.
- 255 ○ Every effort shall be made to obtain the following information before contacting these
256 agencies:
- 257 ▪ Location of the incident.
- 258 ▪ Hazardous material involved and shipper, if known.
- 259 ▪ The color, numbers and symbols on any labels or placards on the carrier or cargo.
- 260 ▪ Type of environment (residential, rural, business, etc.).
- 261 ▪ Size of the container and amount of product leaking.
- 262 ▪ If rail, location of hazardous material car from the head of the train, car number, and
263 description of car (i.e., tank car, box car, etc.).
- 264 ▪ The initial and number of aircraft, if any.
- 265
- 266 • Key Agencies
- 267 ○ Depending on the nature of the incident and hazardous materials involved, one or more
268 of the following agencies shall be contacted:
- 269 ▪ Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTREC), 800-424-9300

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- Environmental Protection Agency's National Response Center, 800-424-8802
 - Virginia Department of Emergency Management Operations Center, 804-674-2400 or 800-468-8892.
- Post-incident responsibilities
 - All supervisors involved in the incident shall prepare and submit after-action reports to the Sheriff concerning all law enforcement activities including:
 - The cause of the incident, if known;
 - All tasks undertaken to control the incident;
 - The number of enforcement and emergency services personnel involved in the incident;
 - The number of deaths and injuries resulting from the incident;
 - Comments on the usefulness of emergency plans and policies and recommendations for updating or revising plans and policies.
 - The Incident Commander in consultation with the Sheriff or his designee and other appropriate authorities, shall submit a comprehensive after-action report to the County Administrator.
 - The after-action report shall address:
 - Any budgetary impact, commitments, or obligations
 - Number of deaths resulting from the incident, and
 - Estimates on property damage related to the incident.