

Kent Fire Department Policy & Guidelines

OPERATIONS # 307	<i>Effective Date:</i> 09/20/07	<i>Last Revision:</i>	CFAI Ref:
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Approval: _____, Fire Chief

CONTROL PLAN FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EXPOSURES

Policy References:

1. Haz Mat Exposure Packet
2. Emergency Response Guidelines for Haz. Mat. Incidents
3. Policy 324 Reporting of Occupation Injuries and Illnesses
4. WAC 296-305-03001 Hazardous Materials Protection
5. WAC 296-305-05011 Hazardous Materials Operations
6. WAC 296-824-400 Medical Surveillance
7. NFPA 471 Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents
8. NFPA 472 Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents
9. NFPA 473 Standard for Competencies for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents

Affected Members:

All Uniformed Employees

Policy Statement:

It shall be the policy of the Kent Fire Department to protect its members from exposure to hazardous materials and to provide appropriate treatment and medical follow up when a possible exposure occurs. It is the responsibility of each member to take appropriate precautions to avoid exposure and to report and properly document any exposures that do occur.

A hazardous materials exposure has potential for significant short-term and long-term impacts on the employee and the organization. Proper documentation of resources utilized and actions taken is critical to a successful outcome..

In addition to regular medical exams for members of the Hazardous Materials Team, other first responders will be provided with appropriate medical surveillance as soon as possible after an employee reports:

* Signs, symptoms or injury associated with possible overexposure to hazardous substances or health hazards.

* Exposure above the permissible exposure limits or published exposure levels without appropriate PPE.

CONTROL PLAN FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EXPOSURES

The physician performing employee's regular physical examination should be made aware of any exposures or potential exposures to hazardous materials so that a targeted follow up assessment can be done, regardless of initial medical treatment

Action by:

Action:

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PRECAUTIONS

All Personnel

1. Maintain awareness of the potential for exposure to hazardous materials and hazardous substances.
2. Work within the parameters of individual training. Firefighters trained to Operations level may do defensive actions only.
3. Select and use personal protective clothing and equipment appropriate to the hazard.

POSSIBLE EXPOSURE

NFPA 471 Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents

9.2.4 There are occasions when an apparently normal alarm response turns into a hazardous materials incident. Frequently, most of the initial assignment crews will have already gone into the incident area and exposed themselves to the contamination threat.

9.2.4.1 It is essential that all members so involved remove themselves from the area at once, call for decontamination capability, and stay together in one location. They must not wander around, climb on and off apparatus, and mix with other personnel since there is a potential for them to be contaminated.

9.2.4.2 Fire fighters so exposed should be given gross decontamination as a precautionary measure. Knowledgeable hazardous materials personnel, such as the decontamination sector officer, in conjunction with the incident commander, should determine whether more definitive decontamination is necessary.

9.2.4.3 The primary objective of decontamination is to avoid contaminating anyone or anything beyond the hot zone. When in doubt about contamination, decontaminate all involved personnel, equipment, and apparatus.

All Personnel

1. Avoid exposing other people and equipment.
2. Report possible exposure to supervisor.
3. Initiate appropriate emergency decontamination procedures.

CONTROL PLAN FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EXPOSURES

Action by:

Action:

4. Receive on-site medical treatment and initial medical screening as recommended by Poison Control toxicologist. Continuing medical surveillance will be coordinated by Healthforce Partners Physician Healthline.
5. If in doubt regarding the significance of the exposure and need for medical follow up, complete the *Haz Mat Exposure Worksheet* contained in the *Haz Mat Exposure Packet* and the apparatus Resource Manual.
6. Complete employee portion of the *City of Kent Injury/Incident Report* and forward completed form to supervisor.
7. Complete *Haz Mat Exposure Worksheet* and forward to Supervisor.
8. Notify physician of all exposures to ensure proper evaluation during regular physical examinations.

Supervisor

1. Ensure that no other people or equipment are exposed to product.
2. Notify the Shift Commander.
3. Ensure that employee is properly decontaminated. **Emergency decontamination is a minimum precautionary measure.** Utilize haz mat technicians and/or other authoritative resources for formal decontamination procedures.
4. Ensure that employee receives proper on-scene medical treatment and additional medical surveillance as appropriate, Contact Poison Control toxicologist for initial medical treatment. Healthforce Partners Physician Healthline will be consulted for follow-up and on-going treatment.
5. Ensure that contaminated equipment and clothing is handled properly to avoid spreading contamination and to preserve evidence. Follow instructions of hazardous materials experts and consult with Department Safety Officer or Incident Safety Officer regarding need for investigation.
6. Obtain copy of MSDS and/or as much detailed product information as possible.
7. Access on-site experts and other references to determine hazards and appropriate course of action. Poison Control is a good initial resource.
8. If in doubt about the significance of the exposure and the need for medical follow up, utilize the *Haz Mat Exposure Worksheet* found in the apparatus Resource Manual and the *Haz Mat Exposure Packet*. If still in doubt, it is always better to provide too much treatment rather than not enough.
9. Investigate incident for surface and root causes of exposure.
10. Complete Supervisor's portion of the *Injury/Incident Report* and forward with completed *Haz Mat Exposure Worksheet* to Shift Commander or Division Chief.

CONTROL PLAN FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EXPOSURES

Action by:

Haz Mat Techs

Action:

1. Document any pertinent information collected in relation to adverse health effects from chemical exposure. Forward information to Incident Commander for inclusion in Exposure Packet.

Shift Commander/
Division Chief

1. Ensure that proper procedures are followed and that any decision not to receive medical follow up is appropriate.
2. Ensure that required paperwork is completed and properly routed in a timely manner.

If medical follow up is required.

All Personnel

1. Complete *Haz Mat Exposure Packet* as soon as possible after release from medical facility and give to supervisor.
2. Follow Kent Fire Department Policy and Guideline 324- *Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses* for proper reporting and documentation.
3. *Physician's Release for Employee to Return to Full Duty* form must be completed by treating physician and returned to Fire Administration before returning to work.

Supervisor

1. Notify Shift Commander.
2. Stay or place company out of service and ensure that employee receives proper on-scene medical treatment and additional medical surveillance as appropriate as soon possible.
3. Investigate exposure incident for surface and root causes.
4. Complete Supervisor's portion of the *Injury/Incident Report* and forward with completed *Haz Mat Exposure Packet* to Shift Commander/Division Chief.
5. Ensure that proper procedures are followed and all appropriate paperwork is completed and properly routed.

Shift Commander/
Division Chief

1. Place employee out of service and ensure that appropriate treatment is provided.
2. Utilize Poison Control toxicologist for initial direction. Contact Physician Healthline for proper coordination and follow up. Utilize other appropriate resources for product specific information and actions.
3. Arrange for transport to appropriate destination as determined after consultation with experts. Ensure that hospital is notified with specifics of exposure and are prepared to accept employee.
4. Notify Deputy Chief, Fire Chief, EMS officer and Safety Officer.
5. Ensure that proper procedures are followed and required paperwork is completed and properly routed in a timely manner

CONTROL PLAN FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EXPOSURES

Action by:

Deputy Chief

Action:

1. Ensure that needs of exposed firefighter are addressed.
2. Review incident documentation and work with Department Safety Officer to address any associated safety issues.

Safety Officer

1. Ensure that incident is adequately investigated.
2. Review incident documentation and work with Deputy Chief to address any associated safety issues.

EMS Officer

1. Ensure that appropriate medical follow up is provided.
2. Works with Administrative Staff to ensure a confidential record of the exposure or potential exposure is maintained in the employee's medical record file under "Occupational Exposure."