

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Subject Hazardous Materials Incident Response			
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I. Policy

It is the policy of the Dalton Police Department that the response to hazardous materials incidents ~~will~~ shall be conducted safely and efficiently to ensure the safety of ~~Officers and citizens~~ all persons and to minimize disruptions of public systems.

II. Definitions

- A. *Known Product* – A hazardous material that has been positively identified by the responder, and its chemical and physical properties are understood.
- B. *Large Spill* – More than 200 liters of any product, any amount of a product deemed an Extremely Hazardous Substance by the U.S. Department of Transportation, or a vapor release from a vehicle or commercial establishment of known or unknown products.
- C. *Nonvolatile* – Does not readily evaporate at normal temperatures and pressures.
- D. *Unknown Product* – A hazardous material that has not been identified by the responder, or the responder knows the product's name but has no information on the product's chemical, physical, or hazardous properties.
- E. *Small Spill* – 200 liters or less of a substance that is not deemed an Extremely Hazardous Substance by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- F. *Volatile* – Readily evaporating at normal temperatures and pressures.

III. Procedure

- A. Response to Small Spills
 - 1. Upon arrival, the Officer shall attempt to determine the size of the spill. This can be done by determining the carrier and container of the ~~equipment~~ product. The small spill scenario will basically involve small motor vehicles (i.e., automobiles, pick-up trucks, etc.)

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2. Seeing that it is a small spill, as noted above, the Officer shall then attempt to determine the identification of the product. This can be done by ~~confirming the vehicle's type of fuel and / or~~ contacting with the owner, ~~or~~ equipment / vehicle operator, or other responsible person.
3. If this is a commonly encountered product, such as gasoline or diesel fuel, the Officer shall then attempt to determine if the product is volatile or nonvolatile. Volatile products normally will vaporize rapidly into the atmosphere in Dalton's climate, while nonvolatile products will not.
4. Volatile products, such as gasoline, alcohols, and acetone, will evaporate most any time of the year, while diesel fuel, kerosene, and other heavy products will be volatile mostly during the hottest months. Nonvolatile products, such as heavy oils, lubricants, and some antifreezes, will not evaporate at any time of the year.
5. Once the determination of volatile / non-volatile has been made, the Officer shall follow the guidelines of this directive.
6. For nonvolatile products:
 - a. Secure the area with a patrol vehicle and request traffic control assistance, as needed.
 - b. Request assistance from Dalton Public Works by notifying the Whitfield County 911 Center. If this occurs outside of normal business hours, Public Works personnel may have to be called out.
 - c. Request assistance from Dalton Fire Department by notifying the Whitfield County 911 Center, if the substance has entered a waterway or if other assistance is needed.
7. For volatile products:
 - a. Secure the area with a patrol vehicle in a manner that will not cause ignition of the product.
 - b. If there is a traffic hazard, request assistance from Dalton Public Works by notifying the Whitfield County 911 Center.
 - c. Request assistance from Dalton Fire Department by notifying the Whitfield County 911 Center, if the substance has entered a waterway or if other assistance is needed.
 - d. If there is no traffic hazard, the Officer may go in service once the area is safe.

B. Response to Large Spills

1. Approach the incident upwind and upgrade, but maintain a safe distance.

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2. Upon arrival of the first Officer on the scene:
 - a. Report the incident as a possible hazardous material incident.
 - b. Notify the Watch Commander.
 - c. Request the Whitfield County 911 Center notify the Dalton Fire Department and other applicable agencies.
3. Stay upwind and updrift.
4. Evacuate the immediate area of nonessential personnel.
5. Avoid contact with any liquid or fumes.
6. Eliminate ignition sources (i.e., lighted cigarettes, flares, and combustible engines).
7. Attempt to rescue the injured, only if prudent in the Officer's judgment. The Officer should consider the entire incident before jeopardizing his / her own safety.
8. Notify the Whitfield County 911 Center of the following:
 - a. Situation description
 - b. Any identification placards or signs
 - c. Any known victims
 - d. Other safety hazards and considerations
9. Initiate evacuation after consulting with fire department personnel and in accordance with GO07-6.8, Emergency Evacuations.
10. If Dalton Fire Department is not yet on scene, establish a command post location upwind, uphill, and at a safe distance. Report the exact location of the command post to the Whitfield County 911 Center and identify the best approach route to the scene.
11. If Dalton Fire Department is already on scene, the first Supervisor on scene shall respond to the command post and make contact with the Incident Commander.
12. The Dalton Fire Department is responsible for designating an Incident Commander for these incidents. The Supervisor shall notify responding Officers where to safely stage or where to perform law enforcement activities, such as establishing a perimeter, traffic control, or evacuations. The Supervisor shall remain at the command post and operate as a liaison for the Incident Commander until relieved.

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C. Perimeter Control

1. The first Officer on the scene shall determine the outer perimeter by using the Emergency Response Guidebook or by consulting with the Dalton Fire Department.
2. Responsibilities of the first Supervisor on the scene:
 - a. Report to the command post.
 - b. Assign personnel to secure the outer perimeter.
 - c. Assign an Officer to the staging area.
3. Officers securing the outer perimeter of the incident shall deny entry or access to the scene, except for public safety personnel (fire, EMS, law enforcement) that are essential to the operation of the hazardous material incident or others authorized to enter the scene by the Incident Commander.
4. If personnel that are authorized to enter the hazardous material incident scene are not easily identified by uniform or other means, a perimeter control Officer may give the personnel a piece of crime scene tape. The tape should be fixed to the personnel's belts to make them easily identifiable on the incident scene.
5. All personnel authorized to enter the incident area shall be directed to enter through the staging area as established by the Dalton Fire Department.
6. Officers assigned to secure the perimeter of the scene shall maintain a route for easy entry and exit of emergency vehicles.
7. Perimeter control Officers shall ensure that ~~citizens~~ persons not involved in the response to the hazardous material incident are denied access to the outer perimeter area. ~~The citizens~~ Those persons should be advised to move upwind and upgrade when leaving the area.
8. The outer perimeter is subject to be moved farther away from the incident, at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

D. Evacuation

1. The Dalton Fire Department Incident Commander shall make the determination for the evacuation of a specific area (refer to policy GO07-6.8, Emergency Evacuations).
2. The Dalton Fire Department shall determine the exact area to be evacuated.
3. The Whitfield County 911 Center shall contact the Whitfield County Emergency Management Agency director, the American Red Cross, and

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the Salvation Army to initiate the opening of shelters and to provide public transportation as directed in the Whitfield Emergency Management Disaster Plan, if needed.

4. The Department shall establish evacuation mass transit locations. These are to be utilized by ~~civilians~~ persons that have no other means of transportation. The American Red Cross and the public school systems will provide buses for the transportation at these locations.
5. A Supervisor or Command Staff member shall coordinate the recall of off-duty personnel and contact other law enforcement agencies, as needed, for evacuation assistance (refer to policy GO04-6.1, Emergency Call-Out and Notifications).
6. The local news media, social media, and the automated emergency notification system may be utilized to broadcast evacuation notices, mass transit locations, and evacuation shelter sites.
7. The areas to be evacuated shall be divided up into evacuation sectors. Officers shall be assigned to evacuate the sectors with the greatest potential danger first. No law enforcement personnel shall be assigned to enter areas that may expose them to the effects of hazardous materials without first being provided with appropriate protective equipment.
8. Officers shall evacuate sectors in the quickest way possible. This could include the utilization of public address systems on patrol vehicles or going door to door.
9. As evacuation sectors are cleared, the assigned Officers shall notify the command post.
10. Officers shall patrol the evacuated areas, as safety dictates, to prevent looting or unauthorized re-entry.

E. Decontamination Procedures

1. The Dalton Fire Department is responsible for establishing a location to be used for the decontamination process and for assigning a Site Access Control Leader to oversee the documentation and direction of affected public safety members.
2. An Officer shall be assigned to assist the Site Access Control Leader at the decontamination site with directing other Officers that have been exposed to hazardous materials. Part of this Officer's responsibilities include securing all firearms, Tasers, and other duty gear that are subject to the decontamination process.
3. All firearms, Tasers, and other weapons shall be unloaded and / or made safe prior to being submitted to the decontamination process.

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4. All exposed Department vehicles, uniforms, and equipment shall be properly decontaminated, as overseen by Dalton Fire Department personnel, prior to being placed back in service.
5. Any uniforms or equipment that are no longer serviceable due to exposure or the decontamination process shall be properly disposed of, and a request for replacement shall be submitted to the appropriate Division Commander.

This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.

BY ORDER OF

CHIEF OF POLICE

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