

210.00 - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

210.01 General Procedures

- (1) Every truck or railroad car should be considered a hazard because of the material it may be carrying, whether it is placarded or not. In case of an accident, fire, or spillage, the first officer to respond should:
 - a. Request additional support as needed:
 1. Medical aid for the injured.
 2. Denver Fire Department Hazardous Material Response Team to contain, neutralize, or take charge of any hazardous material spilled, leaked, or abandoned.
 3. Specially trained officers assigned to the Highway Unit of Traffic Operations will respond on all hazardous material incidents involving an accident, spillage, illegal transportation, and/or dumping. The Unit will be called on questionable incidents by Fire Department personnel.
 4. If appropriate, the METRO/SWAT Bureau should be called for perimeter control and possible evacuation.
 - b. Approach from upwind and uphill if possible. Do not walk into spilled material or clouds of vapor.
 - c. Avoid inhaling fumes, smoke, and vapors even if no hazardous materials are evident.
 - d. Do not assume that gases or vapors are harmless because of lack of odor.
 - e. Move and keep people away from the incident scene.
 - f. Check for hazardous material placards. These placards identify the type of hazardous material cargo (flammable, poison, corrosives, etc.). Placards are located on the ends and sides of involved vehicles. Check for hazardous material I.D. numbers on cargo tanks, tank cars and portable tanks which identify SPECIFIC hazardous materials on board. These I.D. numbers may be found on orange panels, certain placards, and on shipping papers.
 - g. Ascertain from the driver or train crew members the type of material carried and retrieve the shipping papers from the cab, if it can be accomplished without risk to the officer.
 - h. If the shipping papers are not available, the trucking company or carrier may be contacted through the fire dispatcher or the Highway Unit to obtain information on the unknown material.
- (2) The Fire Department will be called to any scene where hazardous materials are involved or suspected. The senior Fire Department officer at the scene will assume command of the area needed for fire fighting, rescue operations and any area needed to contain and neutralize the spill.
 - a. If the Fire Department or state health department recommends the evacuation of people from the danger area, the Denver Police Department will supervise the evacuation. See OMS 210.02(5).
 - b. Both the Fire Department's Hazardous Material Response Team and those Highway Officers trained in handling hazardous materials may be called to the scene of an illegal dumping of hazardous material.
 - c. Personnel of the Denver Police Department will not take samples of unknown substances. The Fire Department will take any samples required.
 - d. If a vehicle containing hazardous materials is to be impounded, it must be done with the approval of the Fire Department and will be towed to the Fire Department holding facility.
 - e. The Fire Department will be responsible for the rescue of injured persons when the rescue is restricted by the presence of hazardous materials.
- (3) Responsibilities of police personnel at the scene:
 - a. Traffic and crowd control at and in the vicinity of the incident.

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- b. Keep avenues of access and egress open for emergency response vehicles.
- c. Evacuate all persons, except required personnel, from the immediate area and keep them a safe distance from the incident scene.
- d. If toxic vapors are released, clear all persons from the area as ordered by the Fire Department.
- e. Establish a command post upwind, a safe distance from the scene of an incident. Make certain that each agency involved has a representative at the command post.
- f. Security of the area evacuated.
- g. Make frequent situation reports to the Denver Emergency Operations Center, when activated.
- h. If a vehicle or other conveyance carrying flammable liquids or compressed gas is involved in an accident, do not drive any vehicle near the scene as it may cause the material to ignite.
- i. Keep fires, open flames, flares, and smoking materials away from the scene.
- j. Set up warning signals (except flares) on the highway to warn approaching vehicles.

210.02 Command and Control at Hazardous Material Scenes

- (1) Fire Department personnel are in charge until the situation is stabilized.
- (2) The ranking officer of the Highway Unit will assume command of police personnel at the scene of hazardous material incidents.
- (3) The METRO/SWAT Bureau will be in charge of the inner perimeter as determined by the Fire Department.
- (4) Investigation of the accident and restoration of the traffic flow will be the responsibility of the Special Operations Division.
- (5) When Fire Department personnel determine that evacuation is necessary, the commander of the Highway Unit of the Special Operations Division will advise the METRO/SWAT Bureau commander or supervisor. The METRO/SWAT Bureau commander or supervisor will be in charge of all aspects of the evacuation: notification of evacuees, arrangement of transportation and a relocation site, and control of the evacuated area.
- (6) If required, the METRO/SWAT Bureau will be responsible for transporting the mobile command post to the scene.
- (7) After Action Report, DPD 286
 - a. In addition to the required distribution of After Action Reports (See OMS 109.02, DPD286, and 502.07), a copy will be sent to the Highway Unit Commander and will include the total number of personnel hours expended.
 - b. A copy of the Traffic Operation Bureau's After Action Report will be forwarded to the Fire Department by the Highway Unit Commander and will include the cost of all Police Department manpower, equipment and materials expended throughout the duration of the incident.

210.03 The Denver Police Highway Unit will be responsible for:

- (1) Commercial vehicle inspections, both cursory inspection of easily observable equipment and in-depth inspection of concealed mechanical equipment.
- (2) Enforcement of statutes, ordinances, and rules and regulations pertaining to the transportation of hazardous materials.
- (3) Assisting the Fire Department at any scene involving hazardous materials.
 - a. Coordinating the on-scene investigation, gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses.
 - b. Identifying vehicle equipment violations, violations of Federal regulations, and other violations pertaining to the transportation of hazardous materials.

- c. Making the necessary reports on traffic accidents involving hazardous material spills, and supplying pertinent information to the U.S. Department of Transportation on incidents involving inter-state transportation of hazardous materials resulting in a leakage or spill.
- d. Making Offense/Incident Reports on illegal dumps and spills of hazardous materials, on public and private property, even though not traffic related.

210.04 Follow-up Investigations Regarding Hazardous Materials

- (1) The follow-up investigations of hazardous material violations will be handled by detectives assigned to the Traffic Investigations Bureau.
- (2) Offense/Incident Reports requiring follow-up investigation will be routed to TIB.

