Imperial County Operational Area

Hazardous Materials Area Plan

Imperial County Office of Emergency Services
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Primarily prepared and edited by

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The updates of the 2016 Imperial County Operational Area Hazardous Materials Area Plan was through the coordinated effort of the staff of the Imperial County Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services (Imperial County OES) and were greatly assisted by many staff from various County Agencies, City/Towns and Departments.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDICES

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2640 - PROPOSED AREA PLAN

A. DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AREA PLAN

The use, storage, and transportation of hazardous materials and the generation and transportation of hazardous wastes are issues of increasing importance in the protection of life, the environment, and property in the Imperial County Operational Area (OA). The prevalence of businesses routinely storing and handling hazardous materials and hazardous wastes has promoted an increasing awareness and concern for the public's health and safety. Hazardous materials emergencies are the result of: threatened releases, highway accidents, clandestine drug laboratories, train derailments, pipeline transportation accidents, pesticide drift incidents, or related fire and/or spills at fixed facilities. The Hazardous Materials Area Plan (Area Plan) will identify local, state, and federal responsibilities during incidents involving the release or threatened release of hazardous substances. The Incident Commander (IC) has the primary responsibility and the authority to activate a response consistent with the Area Plan.

The State legislature, in recognizing the risks that hazardous materials and wastes pose to emergency responders and the community, created a hazardous materials disclosure program under Chapter 6.95, Section 25500, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code. This program requires the Imperial County OA Department of Toxic Substances Control – Imperial Certified Unified Program Agency (DTSC Imperial CUPA), the Administering Agency (AA), to develop an Area Plan detailing the duties and responsibilities of governmental and other response agencies in a hazardous materials incident, including Pesticide Drift Incident Protocols. The Area Plan provides information for agencies involved in a response to a hazardous materials incident occurring within Imperial County. This Area Plan is revised and updated on an on-going basis 3-year cycle.

1. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

Imperial County has agreements relating to hazardous materials response with the following jurisdictions:

- Yuma County: Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE): Agreement for Automatic Aid

2. EXISTING PLANS

There are several plans related to the Area Plan, which deal with hazardous materials emergency response at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. These plans are the National Contingency Plan, the California Hazardous Substances Response Plan, the Region VI Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan, and the Imperial County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The National Contingency Plan addresses the hazardous materials response procedures for the National and Regional Response Teams. The California Hazardous Substances Response Plan addresses the State's hazardous materials response procedures. Also, this plan describes how funds in the Hazardous Spill Prevention Account authorized by the Public Utilities Commission Regulations, Section 7714, are used to train and equip state and local hazardous materials response teams (HMRTs). The Region VI LEPC Hazardous Materials Response Plan, as mandated by Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), describes hazardous materials emergency response for the six Region VI counties: Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. The EOP is a single-source guidance document for the preparation and response to significant or catastrophic natural, environmental, or conflict-related risks, as well as identifies organizational structures and relationships, and describes the responsibilities and functions necessary to protect life and property.

Portions of several documents have been directly incorporated into this Area Plan. These documents are listed as follows:

- Imperial County Operational Area, Emergency Operations Plan, Imperial County Office of Emergency Services, July 2007.

- Imperial County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, Imperial County Office of Emergency Services, January 2007.

- Hazardous Materials Area Plan, Imperial County, Imperial County Department of Health Services, April 1992.

- Imperial Valley Hazardous Emergency Assistance Team, Joint Powers Agreement, Equipment Grant Proposal to Department of Toxic Substances Control, May 13, 1996.

- U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program: Border 2020, A Mid-Course Refinement (2012-2020).

B. AREA DESCRIPTION

Imperial County, also referred to as Imperial Valley, originally part of San Diego County, was founded August 7, 1907. The area was visited as early as 1540 by Hernando de Alarcon, discoverer of the Colorado River. It was further explored by Spanish explorers and Catholic friars. Settlements existed along the Butterfield Stage Route as early as 1858, but no real development took place until water was brought into the area in 1901. It is the 9th largest County in California.

Imperial County is located in the far southeastern portion of California. It has an area of 4,597 square miles and borders on Mexico to the south, Riverside County to the north, San Diego County to the west, and the State of Arizona on the east. The terrain varies from 235 feet below sea level at the Salton Sea to 4,548 feet at Blue Angel Peak.

Although this region is a desert, with high temperatures and low rainfall of three inches per year, the economy is heavily based on agriculture due to the availability of irrigation water, which is supplied wholly from the Colorado River via the All-American Canal. A vast system of canals, check dams, and pipelines carry the water all over the county, a system which forms the Imperial Irrigation District. The water distribution system includes over 1,400 miles of canals and 1,200 miles of pipelines. Imported water and a long growing season allow two crops cycles each year, and the Imperial Valley is a major source of winter fruits and vegetables, and grain for the United States and international markets. Alfalfa is another major crop produced in Imperial County.

A secondary industry of the Imperial Valley region is tourism. Many visitors come to the area to visit the Salton Sea, at 235 feet below sea level, and the Glamis Sand Dunes, one of the largest dune fields in America. Another unique feature of the Imperial Valley is the New River, which flows from south to north, from the nearby border city of Mexicali, Mexico to the Salton Sea.

Other significant contributors to the local economy are government, geothermal electric power plants, solar, state prisons, retail trade, and services. The County's future employment conditions will depend on several potential and on-going projects, which include the new industrial and commercial developments in the Gateway of America international border crossing, regional landfill, construction, geothermal industries, and expansion of the U.S. Plaster City Gypsum Plant.

The City of El Centro, the largest of the three major cities in the Imperial Valley, is the county seat and principal trading center of the County. It is accessible via interstate Highway 8 crossing east and west near the Mexican border and State Highways 86 and 111 from the north that continue to the Mexican border. (Imperial County is crossed by Interstate 8, and California State Highways 7, 78, 86, 98, 111, and 115.)

Mexico runs all along Imperial County's southern boundary, and there are three international ports of entry. There are two ports of entry located in Calexico, and the third port is at Andrade in eastern Imperial County. Through these three ports travel over 35 million people and over 300,000 cargo trucks each year.

C. PROVISIONS FOR INTEGRATING INFORMATION FROM BUSINESS PLANS

The disclosure program requires handlers of hazardous materials and waste to develop Hazardous Materials Business Plans (business plans) and submit them to DTSC Imperial CUPA. The intent of the disclosure program is to provide first responders with site-specific information such as chemical inventory and facility site maps indicating location and quantities of hazardous materials and wastes. The information is obtained annually from Hazardous Materials Business Plans, which are verified by DTSC Imperial CUPA for integration into the Area Plan.

Each fire agency currently has business plan information for facilities in their jurisdiction. Each fire jurisdiction is given updated business plan information, provided that changes have occurred at facilities within their jurisdiction. Included in all business plans are emergency plans and employee training documentation. During a hazardous materials incident this information is used to supplement the Area Plan at fixed facilities. By developing business plans, both businesses and governmental agencies may be better prepared for a coordinated response to these hazardous materials incidents, thus minimizing potential risks to life, the environment, and property.

It can be gathered from business plans on file with the DTSC Imperial CUPA that vast amounts of agricultural chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides) and industrial chemicals (supporting Mexican industrial needs) are transported through Imperial County. It can also be safely concluded that all major state and interstate highways that traverse Imperial County pose a significantly higher hazardous material incident risk than county road. These particular transportation routes are identified in Appendix A of this Area Plan.

All business plans and revisions are available for public inspection during regular working hours, except those portions of the business plan specifying the precise location where hazardous materials are stored and handled on site. This includes any maps of the site, as required by paragraph (5) of Section 25509 which will not be available for inspection.

D. RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (RMP) – ACUTELY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (AHMs)

DTSC Imperial CUPA has identified business facilities that handle and store acutely hazardous materials (AHM) and extremely hazardous substances (EHS). Handlers of AHM must comply with the Risk Management Program (RMP) identified under California Accidental Release Program (CalARP) regulations. This program incorporates hazard evaluation techniques and risk reduction strategies to be used by businesses to manage acutely hazardous materials. Inspections provide safety recommendations and ensure compliance with program mandates.

Businesses that handle AHM regulated under the CalARP are required to comply with the Federal Risk Management Plan and/or the California Program as appropriate. These facilities will receive inspections, risk reduction plan reviews, and audits for program compliance.

DTSC Imperial CUPA, at a minimum, inspects all businesses and farms subject to Chapter 6.95 at least once every three years. Inspections ensure compliance with this chapter, as well as identify existing safety hazards that could cause or contribute to a release. Where appropriate, DTSC Imperial CUPA enforces any applicable laws and suggests preventative measures designed to minimize the risk of release of hazardous materials into the work place or environment.

The DTSC Imperial CUPA regulates approximately 938 regulated facilities. The last inspection date and category are used to determine inspection priority and frequency, respectively. Refer to the Imperial County Inspection Guidelines.

E. REPORTING FORM FOR AREA PLAN

DTSC Imperial CUPA, at a minimum will meet the reporting form requirements of the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 4, Article 3. DTSC Imperial CUPA will demonstrate compliance through the use of the Optional Model Reporting Form - Area Plan. A page number will identify each location of the required elements. A table of contents is also included indicating the sections and appendices. A glossary of terms and a list of acronyms are included as Appendix B.

Cal OES OPTIONAL MODEL REPORTING FORM

CHECKLIST for AREA PLAN ELEMENT and reference section	ELEMENT LOCATION	ELEMENT NOT PROVIDED, JUSTIFICATION ATTACHED	PROPOSED DATE FOR COMPLETION
Section 2722 – Emergency Response Procedures	6		
Approach, Recognition, and Evacuation	6		
Personnel Monitoring and Decontamination	10		
Equipment Monitoring and Decontamination	15		
Section 2723 – Pre-Emergency Planning	17		
Pre-incident Site Surveys	17		
Planning and Coordination	18		
Emergency Funding Access	19		
Disposal Facility Access	21		
Emergency Response Contractor Access	21		
Integrated Response Management System	22		
Section 2724 – Notification and Coordination	35		
Notification and Coordination	35		
Emergency Communications	37		
Responsibility Matrix	36, 39		
Imperial County OES Notification	35, 36		
Section 2725 – Training	41		
Emergency Response Personnel Training	41		
Training Documentation	50		
Training Exercises	50		
Section 2726 – Public Safety and Information	51		
Site Perimeter Security	51		
Safety Procedure Information	53		
Information Release Responsibility	54		
Medical Notification	55		
Evacuation Plans	55		
Section 2727 – Supplies and Equipment	61		
Listing and Description	61		
Testing and Maintenance	61		
Section 2728 – Incident Critique and Follow-up	62		

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2642 - EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

A. GUIDELINES FOR APPROACH, RECOGNITION, AND EVALUATION OF RELEASES AND THREATENED RELEASES BY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL, AND DISPATCH PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

Imperial County's emergency management organization is comprised of the Imperial County's departments and Board-Governed Special Districts. The Imperial County OA comprises 18 cities and towns, over 22 Special Districts, 27 public school districts, utility organizations, and volunteers.

Under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), the OA is an intermediate level of the state's emergency services organization that encompasses the County and all political subdivisions located within the geographical boundaries of the County, including Special Districts.

The OA manages information, resources, and priorities among local governments within the OA. It serves as the coordination and communication link between the local government level and regional level of state government.

It is important to note, that while an OA always encompasses the entire county area, it does not necessarily mean that the county government manages and coordinates the OA response within the County. The governing bodies of the County and the political subdivisions within the County develop the organization, structure, and operating procedures for the OA.

In Imperial County, even though the County acts as lead agency, OA management and coordination are shared via operation of a mutual aid zone system. OA representation via the cities/towns will channel requests to the OA. The Imperial County Office of Emergency Services (Imperial County OES) provides staff to coordinate and staff the County OA Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This ensures that information, resources, and priorities represent consensus and shared responsibilities.

1. APPROACH

Imperial County agencies responding to Hazmat incidents use an approach consistent with the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). The first emergency personnel to arrive at an incident will act as the IC until relieved by a representative of the responsible agency. First responders are trained to respond in a defensive fashion. The order of completion of the tasks is incident specific and should be based on protecting life, the environment, and property. The primary responsibilities of these responders may include the following:

- Isolate the scene and deny entry (establish zones).
- Establish an Incident Command Post (ICP) in the support zone using NIMS, SEMS, and ICS. Commonly used ICS forms are available in Appendix C.
- Identify the product and product characteristics (if identification can be done safely - i.e., from a safe distance).
- Assess the type of incident and request appropriate resources based on the level of emergency
- Ensure notification of appropriate agencies.
- If necessary, rescue victims if rescue can be done safely (i.e., if proper level of protection is available.

- Provide emergency medical care, including decontamination of exposed persons.
- Determine need for protective actions (e. g., evacuation or sheltering in place).
- Conduct evacuation, if appropriate.

Upon arrival, the IC will determine the level of incident and make sure the established ICP is upwind, uphill, and/or upstream from the incident, where possible, until hazards are completely identified.

The IC will assist victims and may utilize shelter-in-place techniques as necessary to prevent further exposure to the community. If there is a risk of a pesticide exposure situation, the IC will contact the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner (AC), and if rescue is deemed safe and necessary, then, in coordination with the AC, the IC will identify areas of safe refuge where further pesticide exposure via inhalation or dermal contact will not occur.

Site perimeter security and traffic control is the responsibility of the law enforcement agency having traffic investigative authority and should be initiated as soon as possible to minimize contamination of citizens and to allow emergency response personnel to perform their tasks without interference.

The IC will be responsible for coordinating the multi-agency operations (i.e., fire, law enforcement, DTSC Imperial CUPA, public works, etc.) and designating the safety officer. If pesticide related, the Imperial County AC shall be notified as early as possible.

2. RECOGNITION

Recognizing the type and degree of hazard present is usually one of the first steps after arriving at an incident. The substance involved must be identified. Among the sources of hazardous materials identification are the following:

- Placards
- Shipping manifests
- Visual observation
- Package labels
- Hazardous Materials Business Plans
- Pesticide application signs
- If substance could be a pesticide, call Ag Commissioner's Office through their emergency contact numbers – they may be able to determine the substance through Ag industry contacts
- Container shapes, sizes, and/or color
- Pesticide application equipment, tarped fields, and other evidence of pesticide application nearby
- Information from drivers, shippers, operators, and/or witnesses
- Observing the signs and symptoms of possible pesticide exposure victims (Including headache, nausea, dizziness, and increased secretions such as sweating, salivation, tearing, and respiratory

secretions. Progressive symptoms include muscle twitching, weakness, tremor, in coordination, vomiting, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea.)

- Chemtrec - Chemical Transportation Emergency Center provides two types of assistance during a hazardous materials incident:
    - Relays information in regard to the specific chemical (Appendix D - Chemtrec Communication Form).
    - Will contact manufacturer or other expert for additional information or on-site assistance.

The IC may use the above resources to identify the substance involved (if the identification can be done safely -i.e. from a safe distance). If the incident is beyond the resources of the Imperial County Hazardous Emergency Assistance Team (HEAT), DTSC Imperial CUPA will be contacted to support the identification and recognition of the substance.

The HEAT Team responds to hazardous materials incidents for the purpose of mitigating the release. The HEAT Team utilizes Imperial County Public Health Department, Division of Environmental Health (Imperial County Environmental Health) and DTSC Imperial CUPA during the process as technical support and for additional resources. If the incident goes beyond what the HEAT Team could handle, they would look to mutual aid agreements for additional help.

In the event of a spill involving hazardous materials or waste, which constitutes an immediate threat to public health, the County Health Officer (CHO) will provide guidance to the IC, and if deemed necessary, the CHO would initiate actions to proclaim a county health emergency. Once a proclamation is made, Imperial County EOC will be activated, if it is not already. All coordination with Imperial County OES will be done through the IC, and DTSC Imperial CUPA will function as a liaison with Imperial County OES. Imperial County OES will coordinate and provide staff to the EOC.

3. EVALUATION

Four levels of hazardous materials emergencies have been developed, by Imperial County OES to assist in determining the level of response needed during a hazardous materials incident. The descriptions for the four levels of response: I, II, III, and IV were taken from the Imperial Valley Hazardous Emergency Assistance Team, Joint Powers Agreement. Emergency levels shall be established and coordinated through proper communication/dispatch protocols with all of the dispatch centers of the participating agencies. The response level is the determination of the IC, under the NIMS and SEMS. DTSC Imperial CUPA will provide input to the IC.

a. Level I: Investigative/Minor Incident

Incident response can be managed by an individual jurisdiction.

b. Level II: Unknown Substance/Additional Assistance

Incident response is to an unknown substance or a determination if additional assistance is required. HEAT Team activation is requested to provide additional personnel and equipment from a single jurisdiction.

c. Level III: Extended Impact

A HEAT Team upgrade is requested to include multiple jurisdictions and resources.

d. Level IV: Major Impact

This is the highest level of incident response. All HEAT Team resources have been utilized and regional and state hazardous materials teams are requested.

4. EOC ACTIVATION PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

The following County personnel are authorized to activate the County OA EOC provided that all criteria for EOC activation are met:

- Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
- County Executive Officer
- County Fire Chief/Imperial County OES Coordinator
- County Deputy Chief
- Imperial County OES Deputy Coordinator

An authorized individual activating the EOC must:

- Contact:
  - The Imperial County OES Coordinator or their designee
  - Imperial County Fire Department Communications Center
- Identify him/herself and provide a call-back confirmation telephone number if requested.
- Briefly describe the emergency/disaster situation causing the request.
- Request EOC Responder staffing at a Level II, III, or IV.
- Request notification of EOC staff.

The EOC Director will follow the activation set up procedures set forth in Management Section of the EOC Standard Operating Procedures (EOC SOPs).

Imperial County OES has developed an EOC Responder Database that consists of contact information of County Department personnel who are designated EOC Responders. The EOC Responder database may be used by Logistics Section personnel (or EOC personnel as designed by the EOC Director) when the EOC Director requests an enhanced staffing level at the EOC.

The EOC Responder Database is confidential with limited access. Imperial County OES is responsible for the security and maintenance of the database.

B. MONITORING AND DECONTAMINATION GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

1. GENERAL

Emergency response personnel and equipment are subjected to various degrees of chemical contamination as a result of exposures encountered at hazardous materials incidents. Response personnel can become contaminated in a number of ways, including exposures to vapors and gases, walking or driving through released liquids, powders, or contaminated soils, and from contact with other contaminated personnel, victims, or equipment.

2. TYPES OF DECONTAMINATION

There are five types of decontamination (decon) which are described as follows:

a. Emergency Decon

Emergency decon refers to decon that is urgent, field expedient, and when there is an immediate need to remove contaminants. Most often it is done to civilians or response personnel who have had direct exposure to hazardous solids, liquids, mist, smoke, and certain gases, and who are displaying related symptoms. It is a two-stage process: the first stage consists of clothing removal and a gross two-to-five minute water rinse; the second stage is a soap-and-water scrub and rinse. Exposures to the eyes might involve flushing for 15 minutes or longer. The environment and personal modesty are not of primary importance when there are potentially life-threatening injuries/exposures; however, they will be accommodated wherever possible. Emergency decon should, if possible, take place in the least environmentally sensitive area. Rescuers should don the best available personal protective equipment (PPE) when performing emergency decon. An attempt to communicate information to lessen the victim's fears about the emergency process and to ensure their cooperation throughout all phases of the response should be made.

b. Respiratory Decon

Respiratory decon is provided to civilians who have had an exposure to a gas, which is toxic, but poses little or no risk of secondary contamination to rescue and EMS personnel. It may be required on an emergency basis for victims displaying related symptoms. It involves removing the victims from the hazardous environment and relocating them to a clean and safe location. It may include the administration of oxygen. Bulky clothing capable of trapping gas should be removed outdoors prior to turning the victim over to medical personnel.

c. Primary Decon

Primary decon refers to that form of decon which is provided to personnel working in the Exclusion Zone or Contamination Reduction Zone. Although accelerated, it is a more thorough and detailed process than emergency decon. It is organized and conducted by hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response teams or specially trained decon teams. A Contamination Reduction Corridor is established prior to entry of a HAZMAT team and is conducted within the Contamination Reduction Zone. This generally includes HAZMAT Entry and Decon Teams working in Level A or Level B protective clothing. Primary decon provides for the collection of the contaminants for analysis, treatment, or proper disposal.

d. Secondary Decon

Secondary decon refers to decon provided to civilians that may have been exposed to hazardous chemicals, but are not displaying any related symptoms of exposure. Secondary decon may also be used following emergency decon for victims displaying related symptoms. In secondary decon,

there is time to contain runoff water; communicate information to lessen the victim's fears about the emergency process and ensure their cooperation throughout all phases of the response; provide for modesty; and properly handle the victim's personal items. This level of decon might involve the use of tents, trailers, tarps, containment basins, and/or showers. Secondary decon is too time-consuming for victims with immediate life-threatening injuries/exposures.

e. Equipment Decon

Equipment decon refers to the type of decon utilized to clean equipment so that it can be returned to service. This may refer to the cleaning of equipment contaminated during mitigation of the incident.

3. EXTENT OF DECONTAMINATION REQUIRED

Decontamination procedures should be tailored to the specific hazards of the incident and may vary in complexity and number of steps, depending on the degree of hazard and the employee's exposure to the hazard. Decontamination procedures for personnel and PPE will vary depending upon the specific hazardous materials or symptoms of exposure, since one procedure or method may not work for all substances. Evaluation of decontamination methods and procedures should be performed, as necessary, to assure that employees are not exposed to hazards by reusing PPE.

To achieve plan objectives and protect responders from harm or risk as a result of exposure to hazardous materials, the following general guidelines should be used when the decision to decontaminate personnel and/or equipment is made by the IC. The exact procedure to use must be determined after evaluating a number of factors specific to the incident. Factors that can affect the decontamination process are:

a. Prevention of further contamination

Minimizing contact with potential contaminants is essential to keep the incident from escalating.

b. Physical and chemical properties of the hazardous material

The very properties that make a chemical more hazardous also make it more difficult to decon. Gases are more likely to permeate clothing and skin tissue. Liquids are harder to see and remove than powders and other solid materials. Low-viscosity liquids may permeate more readily than high-viscosity liquids. Soluble materials will be easier to decon than non-soluble materials. Decontamination of a more toxic chemical is more urgent than decontamination of a low-toxicity chemical.

c. Amount and location of contamination

The more of the body that has been contaminated, the more involved the decon process will be. If contaminants are located near the face, there is a greater likelihood of harm due to inhalation or ingestion. If a product is located in other body cavities, folds, nails or hair, there is greater likelihood of permeation into the body. For this reason it is recommended to start decon with the head and then work down. Eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hair, armpits, etc., need to be thoroughly decontaminated, and open wounds need to be completely irrigated.

d. Contact time and temperature

The longer a contaminant is in contact with an object, the greater the probability and extent of contamination. For this reason, minimizing contact time is one of the most important objectives of decon. Temperature will also increase vapor production, which may in turn affect the rate of permeation.

e. Level of protection and work function

The Technical/Reference person and the Decon Team Leader will determine the level of protective clothing needed for the Decon Team. Risk factors may include, but are not limited to, physical state of material, the likelihood of contamination, and the task to be performed.

f. Reasons for leaving the hazard site

Personnel leaving the Exclusion Zone to pick up tools may need little decon. People with life-threatening medical emergencies may need very rapid emergency decon.

4. DECONTAMINATION EQUIPMENT

Decontamination equipment, materials and supplies are generally selected based on risk assessment. Imperial County HEAT Team's hazardous materials response vehicle carries decon supplies and equipment for use during most Level II and Level III hazardous materials incidents. Additional equipment available for decontamination includes, but is not limited to:

- Soft-bristle scrub brushes or long-handle brushes.
- Garden sprayers used for rinsing.
- Children's wading pools to hold wash and rinse solutions.
- Large plastic garbage cans or other similar containers lined with plastic bags to store contaminated clothing and equipment.
- Water storage containers.
- Mild dish washing detergent or soap in squeeze bottles.
- Sponges and absorbent pads for washing.
- Tent or curtain for privacy.
- Diking or absorbent materials to absorb spills.
- Decontamination solvents.
- Mass decon equipment.

5. DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

Decontamination shall be performed whenever contamination is suspected. In the event of physical injury, heat stress, or other related health emergencies, life-saving care should be undertaken immediately.

Physical injuries can range from a sprained ankle to a compound fracture, from a minor cut to massive bleeding. Depending on the seriousness of the injury, treatment may be given at the site by trained response personnel. For more serious injuries, additional assistance may be required at the site, or the victim may have to be treated at a medical facility. Life-saving care should be instituted immediately without considering decontamination. The outside garments can be removed (depending on the weather) if they do not cause delays, interfere with treatment, or aggravate the problem. Respirators and back-pack assemblies must always

be removed. Fully encapsulating suits or chemical-resistant clothing can be cut away. If the outer contaminated garments cannot be safely removed, the individual should be wrapped in plastic, rubber, or blankets to help prevent contaminating the inside of ambulances and medical personnel. Outside garments are then removed at the medical facility. No attempt should be made to wash or rinse the victim at the site. One exception would be if it is known that the individual has been contaminated with an extremely toxic or corrosive material which could also cause severe injury or loss of life. For minor medical problems or injuries, the normal decontamination procedure should be followed.

Heat-related illnesses range from heat fatigue to heat stroke, the most serious. Heat stroke requires prompt treatment to prevent irreversible damage or death. Protective clothing may have to be cut off. Less serious forms of heat stress require prompt attention or they may lead to a heat stroke. Unless the victim is obviously contaminated, decontamination should be omitted or minimized, and treatment begun immediately.

The Contamination-Reduction Corridor will be established at all hazardous materials incidents, involving entry operation or decontamination for victims, responders, or equipment. The Decontamination Leader, in conjunction with the Technical/Reference person, will determine the extent of preparation for decontamination based on the hazard evaluation. In some cases, a full decontamination set-up may not be necessary.

Fire department personnel trained to the First Responder Operation Decon level may be used to staff the decontamination area. Such personnel will be at the same level of protection or one level lower than the Entry Team.

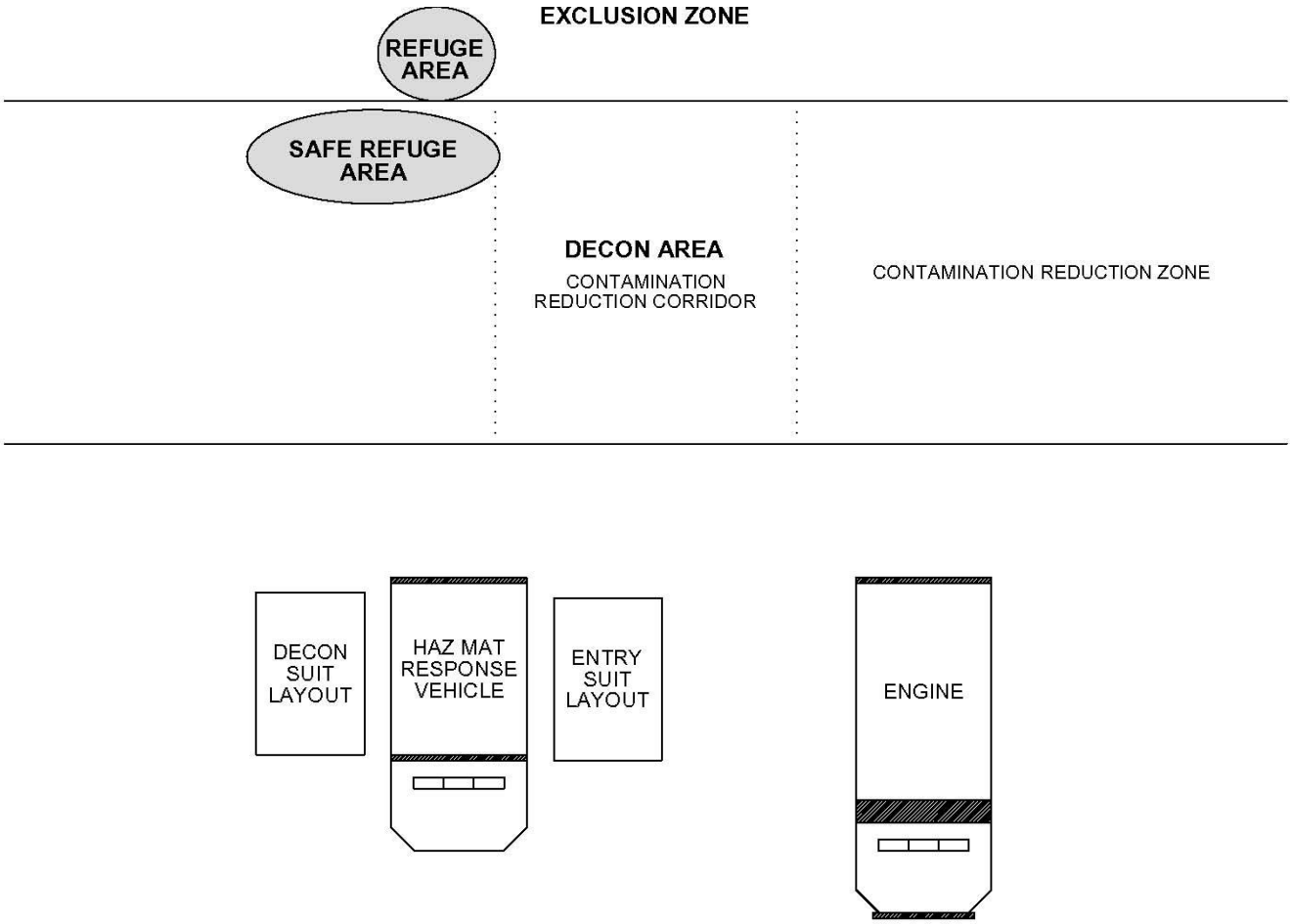
All personnel and equipment entering the Exclusion Zone will be decontaminated and evaluated following final exit, if the materials are hazardous and exposure is possible. Personnel exposed to a mildly toxic material(s) or greater will take a shower following the operation in addition to on-site decontamination. Responders will evaluate the waste/water generated during the decontamination process. Responders will make recommendations for disposal of wastes generated.

a. General Decontamination Procedures

Decon setup and stages/activities are shown below for generic six-station decon and described in further detail in Appendix E. These procedures should be modified to meet the specific needs of the incident.

b. Decontamination during medical emergencies

In a properly functioning hazardous materials response, victims will be decontaminated in the contamination reduction zone by properly suited and protected emergency responders (Primary or Secondary Decontamination). If needed, Primary or Secondary Decontamination will include removal of wet or exposed clothing, flushing affected skin and hair with water, and soap or shampoo wash (i.e., for oily or adherent substances). However, depending on the severity of the medical problem, an Emergency Decon or Respiratory Decon may be appropriate.


EXCLUSION ZONE
REFUGE AREA
SAFE REFUGE AREA
DECON AREA
CONTAMINATION REDUCTION CORRIDOR
CONTAMINATION REDUCTION ZONE
DECON SUIT LAYOUT
HAZ MAT RESPONSE VEHICLE
ENTRY SUIT LAYOUT
ENGINE
SUPPORT ZONE

1) Evaluate airway, breathing and circulation (ABCs), stabilize spine (if trauma is suspected). Establish patient airway and breathing, if indicated. Move victim(s) away from contact with hazardous materials to a clean area. Emergency responders in fully encapsulated suits (level B or A) with self-contained breathing apparatus may not be physically able to do anything more than drag victims on to a back board and then drag them out of the hot zone. If not breathing, and if physically possible to quickly accomplish, give oxygen using bag valve mask with reservoir device.

2) If ambulatory, victim should be directed to leave the hot zone, assist others with evacuation, and decontaminate him or herself following the directions below under the supervision of emergency response staff.

3) If clothing has been contaminated, carefully remove the victim's clothing and double-bag it. Flush the entire body with plain water for two to five minutes. Clothing contaminated with dust should be removed dry with care taken to minimize any dust becoming airborne. If circumstances, time and practice allow, a dust mask or respirator should be placed over the victim's nose or mouth. Dust should be brushed off of the face prior to fitting the mask or respirator.

4) Flush exposed eyes and other body surfaces with copious amounts of plain water for two to five minutes. Eye irrigation should continue for at least 15 minutes, preferably with saline.

5) If contaminant is oily or greasy, soap and/or shampoo may be used followed by additional water flushing.

6) Clean under nails with scrub brush or plastic nail cleaner.

7) Victims are to be properly decontaminated before releasing patients to the ambulance personnel for further treatment and transport. Emergency medical personnel are to communicate information to lessen the victim's fears about the emergency process and ensure their cooperation throughout all phases of the response. The victim's modesty is to be protected, and the victim's personnel items are to be properly handled.

c. Decontamination of Equipment

Insofar as possible, measures should be taken to prevent contamination of sampling and monitoring equipment. Sampling devices typically become contaminated, but monitoring instruments, unless they are splashed, usually do not. Once contaminated, instruments are difficult to clean without damaging them. Any delicate instrument, which cannot be decontaminated easily, should be protected while it is being used. Equipment should be bagged, and the bag taped and secured around the instrument. Openings are made in the bag for sample intake.

1) Wooden tools are difficult to decontaminate because they absorb chemicals. They should be kept on site and handled only by protected workers. At the end of the response, wooden tools should be discarded.

2) Respiratory protection, certain parts of contaminated respirators and self-contained breathing apparatus, such as the harness assembly and leather or cloth components, are difficult to decontaminate. If grossly contaminated, they may have to be discarded. Rubber components can be soaked in soap and water and scrubbed with a brush. Regulators and tanks must be maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations. Persons responsible for decontaminating respirators should be thoroughly trained in respirator maintenance.

3) Heavy Equipment such as bulldozers, trucks, backhoes, bulking chambers, and other heavy equipment are difficult to decontaminate. Typically the method used to decon equipment is water under high pressure and/or to scrub accessible parts with detergent/water solution under pressure, if possible. In some cases, shovels, scoops, and lifts have been sand blasted or steam cleaned. Particular care must be given to those components in direct contact with contaminants such as tires and scoops. Wipe tests should be utilized to measure effectiveness.

d. Sanitizing of PPE

Respirator, reusable protective clothing, and other personal articles not only must be decontaminated before being reused, but also sanitized. The inside of masks and clothing becomes soiled due to exhalation, body oils, and perspiration. The manufacturer's instructions should be used to sanitize the respirator mask. If practical, protective clothing should be machine washed after a thorough decontamination; otherwise it must be cleaned by hand.

e. Persistent Contamination

In some instances, clothing and other equipment will become contaminated with substances that cannot be removed by normal decontamination procedures. A solvent may be used to remove such contamination from equipment if it does not destroy or degrade the protective material. If persistent contamination is expected, disposable garments should be used. Qualified laboratory personnel must do testing for persistent contamination of protective clothing and appropriate decontamination.

6. DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED MATERIALS

All materials and equipment used for decontamination must be properly disposed. Clothing, tools, buckets, brushes, and all other equipment that is contaminated must be secured in drums or other containers and labeled. Clothing not completely decontaminated onsite should be secured in plastic bags before being removed from the site.

Contaminated wash and rinse solutions should be contained by using step-in-containers (for example, child's wading pool) to hold spent solutions. Another containment method is to dig a trench about 4 inches deep and line it with plastic. In both cases, the spent solutions are transferred to drums, which are labeled and disposed off site with other substances derived on site.

7. MEDICAL MONITORING FOR HEAT TEAM RESPONSE PERSONNEL

Prior to joining the HEAT response team each member will go through a Baseline Physical. Each participating department of the HEAT Team maintains a protocol or process and assesses their members annually. The attending physician will certify that the potential team member is fit to wear PPE including respiratory protection equipment. Annually thereafter, each member will go through the Annual Review Criteria and be annually certified by the attending physician. A copy of the certification is kept in each member's personnel file.

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2643 - PRE-EMERGENCY PLANNING

A. PROVISIONS FOR PRE-INCIDENT SURVEYS OF BUSINESS SITES

An emergency plan is required and is included in each business that the DTSC Imperial CUPA inspects that are regulated by Chapter 6.95, Sections 25500, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code (An employer response plan is also required under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976). These statues encompass the employers' responsibilities for the response plan, elements for the plan, and procedures for handling emergency incidents. The plan is also to address how the private business employer will interact with the public sector emergency responder. Imperial County Fire Department maintains copies of the plans.

In Imperial County, incidents can occur in the production, use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials due to the agricultural economy, proliferation of fuel tanks, and transmission facilities, intricate canal systems, and the confluence of major surface arteries and rail systems. Incident potential is increased near roads and railways that are frequently used for the transportation of hazardous materials, as well as in areas with agricultural facilities that use store, handle, or dispose of hazardous materials.

High risk hazards specific to Imperial County include agricultural chemical plants, transportation of hazardous materials through the County, pesticide drift, both from within the County and from Mexico, geothermal plants, and various industrial facilities in Mexico. Each fire jurisdiction is responsible for determining the necessity of pre-fire inspections. Pre-fire inspections are the responsibility of each fire agency.

DTSC Imperial CUPA has provided fire departments with business plans. DTSC Imperial CUPA has identified businesses that handle and store EHM and present the greatest risk to emergency responders. An example of a Hazardous Materials Inventory and Emergency Response Plan provided by DTSC Imperial CUPA is contained in Appendix F.

Hazardous materials incidents can occur either in transit or at a fixed facility. All areas of the County are at risk, particularly where hazardous materials fabrication, processing, storage, treatment, or disposal activities are conducted. In addition to fixed site hazardous materials incidents, such incidents also occur during transportation. Areas at risk would be along highways, rail lines, pipelines, and rivers. Because major highways run through virtually every community in the County, all sections of the County are at risk. Industrial and technological threats include: hazardous materials incidents at fixed facilities; hazardous materials incidents resulting from transportation accidents; power failure; radiological incidents at fixed facilities; radiological incidents resulting from transportation accidents; structural fires; and transportation accidents of all types.

Large quantities of hazardous materials such as gasoline, nuclear waste, and liquid natural gas are moved by truck and rail through heavily populated areas. Interstate 8 travels through Imperial County and many of the trucks contain hazardous materials. The Union Pacific Railroad travels through many of Imperial County's jurisdictions, and its cargo may contain hazardous liquids. The Union Pacific Railroad runs from the Riverside county line on the east shore of the Salton Sea southeast to Arizona's border through Winterhaven, with branches from Niland to Calexico (Appendix A). The Carrizo Gorge Railway runs from San Diego County to Plaster City northeast of Ocotillo. Hazardous materials in railroad tank cars, fuel releases, and fires could pose a substantial threat to this facility as well as other locations where hazardous materials are in transit or stored. Potential explosive conditions, referred to as BLEVEs (boiling liquid expanding vapor explosions) related to stationary railroad tanker cars under high heat conditions are also considered as a high risk hazards in the county.

There are 89.92 miles of pipeline located in Imperial County (Appendix A). Liquid petroleum products are delivered to and transported through Imperial County via the 20-inch Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline, which is generally located within the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. This right-of-way trends northwest to

southeast through the County, where it passes near the eastern side of the Salton Sea and serves the Niland tank farm. The pipeline turns toward the east southeast of Ogilby, and travels to Yuma. A six-inch branch line distributes gas to the storage facility south of Imperial. The Imperial Tank Farm located in the City of Imperial is a component of the Kinder Morgan Pipeline network that delivers gasoline, diesel and jet fuel to Southern California and Arizona. The tank farm contains 16 storage tanks with a total storage capacity of 10,000,000 gallons. A four-inch branch continues onto the Naval Air Facility (El Centro) that stores 1,000,000 gallons of fuel, predominately jet fuel, in above ground storage tanks.

Most major pipelines cross the San Andreas Fault and pipeline breakage may occur. Additionally, because of roadway damage and other utility transmission systems in close proximity to locations of expected pipeline breakage, an already limited response capability will be limited further. There is a possibility of fire where pipeline failures occur. Priorities will have to be established to assure adequate fuel for emergency crews.

The airspace within Imperial County is primarily uncontrolled airspace, with the exception of military controlled areas. Military aircraft at times may find it necessary to declare an in flight emergency or land outside of military controlled airspaces at a civilian airport or other areas. Although the aircraft may be located outside of military property, the aircraft shall remain the responsibility of the Department of Defense (DOD). Hazardous materials involved with aircraft incidents that could result in hazardous materials incidents include aviation fuels, on-board oxygen systems, de-icing chemicals, explosive devices, and aircraft munitions.

Geothermal power generating plants are located in various areas of Imperial County. These facilities utilize large amounts of chemicals, including isopentane and hydrochloric acid, which could result in hazardous materials incidents.

Due to the large scale of agricultural operations in Imperial County, the use of pesticides presents a large source of hazardous materials. Most of the productive farmland is located on the fringe of developing areas. As a result, airborne drift of chemicals from pesticide and crop dusting may adversely affect the residential population. The use, storage, and transportation of pesticides is strictly regulated by California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). The County AC, CalEPA, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) are the major enforcement agencies responsible for controlling and monitoring pesticide use. Monitoring and inspection forms used by the DPR are contained in Appendix G.

Hazardous materials may present dangers in themselves, or they may be released to the environment, thereby causing a hazardous materials incident. The identification and handling of hazardous materials is a specialized area of emergency management, and coordination between general emergency management and hazardous materials specialists is critically needed. Inter-agency coordination is critical to the effectiveness of the OA. The coordination effort will require multiple approaches that represent varying points on a continuum and differ by degrees of effort, commitment, cost, and objectives.

B. PROVISIONS FOR PRE-EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION AMONG EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL WITHIN THE JURISDICTION

Pre-emergency planning shall include coordination of emergency response and emergency assistance between contiguous jurisdictions.

1. AREA PLAN COMMITTEE

The Imperial County Area Plan Committee is composed of representatives from the following agencies: Department of Toxic Substances Control, Imperial CUPA (DTSC Imperial CUPA) , Imperial County Fire Department, Office of Emergency Services (Imperial County OES), Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Brawley Fire Department, El Centro Fire Department, Imperial County Public

Health Department, Division of Environmental Health (Imperial County Environmental Health, Imperial County Planning and Development Services, and Imperial County Department of Public Works. The Area Plan Committee was established to coordinate pre-planning, Area Plan maintenance, and to revise the Area Plan. The updated 2016 Area Plan is based on the 2009 version of the Area Plan, the EOP, the guidance from the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and input from the Area Plan Committee.

This Area Plan has been reviewed and approved by the members of the current Area Plan Committee.

2. AREA PLAN MAINTENANCE

The Area Plan will be reviewed and revised every three years by the DTSC Imperial CUPA in cooperation with the Imperial County OES as required by the Health and Safety Code. The revision process will be in conjunction with input from an Area Plan Committee, and appropriate city, county, and state agencies. In the interim, the Plan will be maintained through the coordination with local, state, and federal agencies in addition to reviewing actual responses and the ongoing collection of new data. Any changes will be reviewed and approved by the Area Plan Committee and appropriate agencies. Revisions will be routed to all agencies on the Area Plan Distribution List and forwarded to Cal OES.

C. PROCEDURES TO ACCESS LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE

1. RECOVERY

The recovery phase restores the area impacted by the hazardous materials incident to its pre-emergency condition and includes measures such as physical restoration and reconstruction; cleaning up of contaminated areas; debris removal; treating contaminated groundwater and surface water; providing health and safety information; and eliminating and/or reducing any known hazards. Recovery operations include both short-term and long–term activities.

a. Short-Term Activities

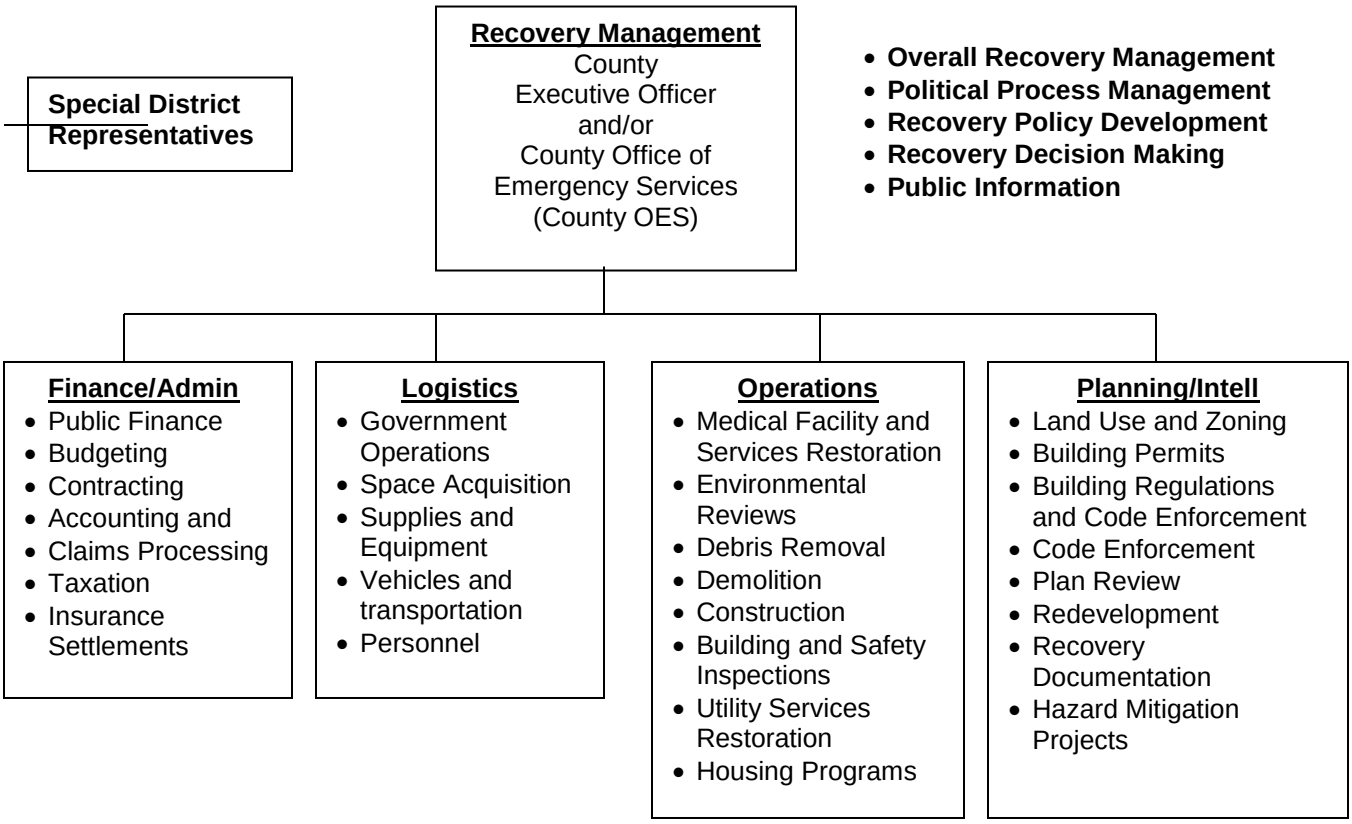
The major objectives of short-term recovery operations include rapid debris removal and cleanup; restoration of essential services; reestablishment of transportation routes; expanded social, medical, and mental health services; and restoration of local government to at least minimum capacity.

b. Long-Term Activities

The major objectives of long-term recovery operations include coordinated delivery of social and health services; effective integration of mitigation strategies into recovery planning to ensure a maximum reduction of vulnerability to future incidents; and recovery of disaster response costs.

Recovery Operations in Imperial County will be managed and directed by the Assistant County Executive Officer (Assistant CEO). The Imperial County OES Coordinator, Imperial County OES staff, and other designated County staff will assist the Assistant CEO in facilitating and leading the recovery process. A recovery operations organization chart for Imperial County as outlined in the EOP is shown below.

RECOVERY OPERATIONS ORGANIZATION CHART



The IC, under advice from DTSC Imperial CUPA, will take all necessary steps to ensure restoration of the scene to a normal condition after a hazardous materials incident. The HEAT Team provides mitigation measures to hazardous materials incidents. Imperial County Division of Environmental Health and DTSC Imperial CUPA oversee cleanup operations. Imperial County agencies will not accept financial responsibility for cleanup. Steps include, but are not limited to the following criteria:

- If the incident occurs on a State highway, the IC will contact the responsible party (RP), i.e., trucking company, chemical company, facility owner, etc., inform them of their obligation to mitigate the incident and give them the opportunity to provide their own clean up service, as well as contract with a registered hazardous waste hauler. The IC will also notify CalTrans in order to obtain their services for clean up.

- If the incident occurs on a County road or on private property, the IC will contact the RP, inform them of their obligation to mitigate the incident and give them the opportunity to provide their own clean up service, as well as contract with a registered hazardous waste hauler.

- DTSC Imperial CUPA will confirm adequacy of the clean up, which may involve removal or treatment of the waste. Imperial County Environmental Health will determine when the site is safe for reoccupation.

- If mitigation cannot be completed, post "Warning Hazardous Substance" signs or tape in a conspicuous location near the incident until clean up is accomplished. The IC, in conjunction with the HEAT Team Supervisor and DTSC Imperial CUPA, will make this decision.

The IC has overall responsibility to maintain surveillance of the scene and ensure adherence to applicable regulations.

2. RECOVERY OF DAMAGES, CLEAN UP COSTS, AND FUNDING

DTSC Imperial CUPA, as the designated Administering Agency, may pursue all appropriate legal avenues through the County District Attorney to initiate action against the spiller/RP to recover all costs incurred.

The IC shall be responsible for supplying all appropriate agencies with a copy of the incident report so that the State and/or local agencies may take the necessary steps to recover costs associated with the clean up and disposal of a hazardous materials.

Spills or incidents occurring on private property shall be the responsibility of the property owner and/or the RP causing the spill. All costs associated with response and recovery from a spill or incident, be it public or private, shall be the responsibility of the property owner and/or the responsible party causing the spill.

When an RP cannot be reached or is uncooperative (for a minor incident on private property or on a public road), the IC will make a determination if local funding is available and can be allocated for clean up. Clean up costs are to be recovered later.

If a cooperative RP cannot be contacted and the incident is a major one requiring a costly clean up, state Superfund funding should be considered. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), DTSC, administers the Emergency Reserve Account created by the California Superfund. Details on this program are described in Appendix H. DTSC Imperial CUPA and the Imperial County OES can assist in this effort.

Senate Bill 391 (Florez) was signed into law in 2004 and provides that if a pesticide use violation causes illness or injury, violators will be legally responsible to pay certain medical costs to the victims. The DPR has developed a brochure on the eligibility for medical cost reimbursement for this purpose (Appendix I).

3. ENFORCEMENT

In situations where a State or Federal response team directs on-scene operations, that team shall be responsible for enforcement of appropriate laws and regulations. When city or county personnel direct on-scene operations, any required post incident enforcement shall be taken through the appropriate public agency. Regardless of which agency directs operations, Imperial County shall ensure that responsible parties or businesses have the “cradle to grave” focus for the disposal of any hazardous materials.

D. PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO STATE APPROVED AND PERMITTED HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES AND EMERGENCY CONTRACTORS

It is the responsibility of the IC to make certain that the spilled material is to be transported in an approved manner and in conformance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49 and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22. DTSC Imperial CUPA personnel will be available for advice on these technical issues, as well as for locations of approved hazardous waste disposal sites.

E. DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED RESPONSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROVIDING STANDARDIZED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, TERMINOLOGY, AND PROCEDURES FOR USE DURING A RELEASE OR THREATENED RELEASE

1. ORGANIZATION

The local organization, which will respond to a hazardous materials incident, is structured to provide a multi-agency response using NIMS and SEMS. For major incidents, the State would be accessed to provide support to local response as coordinated through the ICS. The level of the response, skills necessary to abate the problem, and hence agencies participating in the emergency organization, will be geared to the nature of each specific hazardous materials incident. On incidents involving multiple agencies or jurisdictions, the use of a unified command structure is encouraged.

DTSC Imperial CUPA is responsible for overall pre-emergency planning and coordination among the various emergency responder agencies. This coordinated effort has been formalized through the creation of the Area Plan Committee. DTSC Imperial CUPA and Area Plan Committee are responsible for pre-planning of hazardous materials responses within the incorporated cities and unincorporated areas of Imperial County. This includes the coordination of emergency assistance between jurisdictions.

This Area Plan describes the existing structure for countywide response to spills, releases, or threatened releases of hazardous materials and waste. Agencies and individuals that have responsibilities in response operations involving hazardous materials are listed as follows:

a. Local Agencies

1) County Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
2) Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
3) Board of Supervisors
4) City Managers or Administrators
5) City Councils
6) Mayors
7) County Planning Department
8) Sheriff's Department and City Police Departments
9) Fire Warden, Fire Departments and Fire Districts
10) Public Works Departments (county and cities)
11) Imperial County Office of Emergency Services (Imperial County OES)
12) Imperial County Environmental Health
13) Emergency Medical Services
14) County Agricultural Comissioner
15) DTSC Imperial CUPA

b. State Agencies

1) California Highway Patrol (CHP)
2) California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
3) California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
4) CAL-Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
5) Department of Transportation (CalTRANS)
6) Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)
7) Department of Water Resources (DWR)
8) Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)
9) Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)
10) Cal OSHA
11) California Department of Resources, Recycle, and Recovery
12) Regional Water Quality Control Board
13) Attorney General
14) Department of Forestry
15) National Guard
16) State Lands Division

c. Federal Agencies

1) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
2) United States Coast Guard
3) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
4) Department of Energy (DOE)
5) Department of Defense (DOD)
6) Department of Commerce
7) Department of the Interior
8) Department of Transportation
9) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
10) U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

d. Non-Governmental Agencies

1) Private facility owners

2) American Red Cross/Salvation Army

3) Private industry representatives, especially hazardous waste haulers and cleanup companies

4) Local hospitals, ambulances, and medical facilities

2. ROLE DEFINITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

The ICS is the standardized management system utilized in handling emergencies. ICS is an integral element of NIMS. ICS is applicable to large and small hazardous materials incidents. The ICS consists of procedures for controlling personnel, facilities, equipment and communication.

a. Incident Commander (IC)

The IC shall assume overall management, coordination, and responsibility over a hazardous materials incident. The IC shall be responsible for the identification of incident resources and needs; the procurement of the resources so as to abate the incident; and protection of life, environment, and property. Request for assistance from private agencies shall be authorized only by the IC.

The IC shall not be responsible for the detailed direction of technical or specialized procedures, but shall oversee that these procedures are carried out when needed. Scene management decisions are to be made with the assistance of the Operations Chief, expert advisors, specialty employees, and the CHO or representative.

The IC shall be:

- CHP: All incidents on state roads or highways.
- Sheriff: All incidents off highways in the unincorporated areas.
- Police Departments: All incidents on roadways within incorporated city limits.
- Imperial County Fire Department: All incidents on private or public property in unincorporated areas.
- Local Fire Department: All incidents on private or public property in incorporated city limits.

b. Safety Officer

The IC will designate the safety officer. This person is responsible for assuring the overall safety of all operations performed at the incident by all agencies. This will be done with respect to the highest levels of safety and health. The Safety Officer will report directly to the IC.

c. Public Information Officer (PIO)

The Public Information Officer (PIO) serves as the conduit for information to internal and external stakeholders, including the media or other organizations seeking information directly from the incident or event.

d. Operations Section Chief

The Operations Section Chief is tasked with directing all actions to meet the incident objectives.

e. Planning Section Chief

The Planning Section Chief is tasked with the collection and display of incident information, primarily consisting of the status of all resources and overall status of the incident.

f. Finance/Administration Section Chief

The Finance/Administration Section Chief is tasked with tracking incident related costs, personnel records, requisitions, and administrating procurement contracts required by Logistics.

g. Logistics Section Chief

The Logistics Section Chief is tasked with providing all resources, services, and support required by the incident.

h. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS personnel will work under the direction of the Operations Chief to provide emergency medical care to victims. These emergency incidents, which result in injuries requiring on-scene medical care, are either on or off the highway.

i. State Agency Coordinator (SAC)

When state resources are deemed necessary, the IC will approve the order and the Operational Area Coordinator will make the request to the State via SEMS and/or State Master Mutual Aid Agreements. The State will assist in mitigating the effects of a hazardous materials incident. An individual from the State is assigned to plan and coordinate on-scene operations of state resources.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL AGENCIES

a. Local Law Enforcement (Sheriff and Police)

1) The authority for the management of the scene of an on-highway spill is vested in the appropriate law enforcement agency having primary traffic investigative authority on the highway where the spill occurs. Section 360 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) defines a “highway”. Generally, IC authority rests with the city police department in incorporated areas, and with the CHP in the unincorporated areas and on state highways. The authority for the management of off-highway spills within the unincorporated areas will be the Sheriff's Department. However, pursuant to CVC 2454b, any law enforcement agency having primary traffic investigative authority may enter into written agreements with other public agencies to facilitate incident command at the scene of an on-highway hazardous substance incident on local streets and roads other than freeways.

2) The local law enforcement agency:

- Ensures incident security.
- Coordinates supporting law enforcement activities.
- Identification of substance. First unit on scene will, to the extent of its capability, initiate the identification and notify all public and private agencies concerned with the emergency. (Communications will assist in notifying the DTSC Imperial CUPA and other support agencies upon request).
- Prevents the handling of unknown or suspected hazardous materials until positively identified by qualified personnel, under the direction of the Operations Chief.
- Determines the need for law enforcement mutual aid.
- Supervises handling of explosive devices.
- Establishes the ICP and coordinates the activities of resources/agencies involved in the incident and establishes and maintains close coordination with the Operations Chief and DTSC Imprial CUPA representatives on the scene.
- Conducts evacuation if advised by other appropriate agencies or in situations where personnel from these departments are not available and the requirement is obvious.
- Maintains a site perimeter and/or access to the site (including crowd and traffic control).
- Designates a PIO to ensure that the news media and the public are correctly informed.
- Resolves role and authority conflicts when there is a disagreement between two or more responding agencies.
- Collects and preserves all evidence. Due to the complexity of hazardous waste laws, the DTSC Imperial CUPA representative should be consulted for all hazardous materials collection, preservation, and analysis needs.
- Provides DTSC Imperial CUPA with a copy of the final after-action report.

b. Fire Services: (Fire Districts, and City Fire Departments)

1) The local fire services include all fire departments and districts located within Imperial County, including the Imperial County Fire Department. Fire suppression and prevention is a primary responsibility of the local chiefs. Many fires involve hazardous chemicals and flammable liquids, which must be handled carefully.

2) The designated fire official arriving on the scene of a hazardous materials incident will assume the duties of IC until local law enforcement arrives on scene.

3) The local fire service:

- Assumes the role of Incident Commander for off-highway hazardous materials incidents.
- Identifies perimeter lines to protect the public from contamination.
- Takes all feasible steps to protect life and prevent the spread of contamination.
- Initiates initial incident assessment.
- Advises the IC on the feasibility or necessity to evacuate area.
- Prevents handling of all unknown or suspected hazardous materials until positively identified by qualified personnel.
- Conducts periodic on-site inspections of businesses and users of hazardous materials.
- Requests assistance from DTSC Imperial CUPA and other appropriate agencies.
- Provides copy of agency report to DTSC Imperial CUPA.

c. Department of Toxic Substances Control Imperial CUPA (DTSC Imperial CUPA)

1) DTSC Imperial CUPA has the responsibility of protecting public health and the environment from releases or threatened releases of hazardous materials or hazardous waste. DTSC is the Administering Agency for the Area Plan and the CUPA for Imperial County. It has the responsibility and authority to oversee mitigation and enforcement activities resulting from hazardous materials incidents.

2) As the designated Administering Agency under state hazardous material's disclosure law, DTSC Imperial CUPA must be notified immediately of any release or threatened release of hazardous materials within the boundaries of the county. This notification should be done by the business owner/operator or by the IC.

3) When requested by the IC or the Operations Chief, DTSC Imperial CUPA will:

- Report to the scene and provide technical information regarding response personnel, public health protection (including evacuation), environmental protection (including property protection) and decontamination requirements.
- Identify unknown hazardous substances so as to facilitate safe cleanup and disposal of wastes.
- Recommend additional resources in the identification, containment, treatment, and/or neutralization of spilled materials..
- Determine the need for a contractor for the clean up of hazardous wastes and coordinate/facilitate delivery to an approved disposal site..
- Assist the IC in compiling a final report.

4) Oversee submittal of Business Plans by businesses handling hazardous materials, including the following:

- Maintaining an inventory of locations of hazardous materials in the County and making this information available to emergency response agencies.

- Checking and maintaining emergency response plans prepared by the local businesses to ensure compatibility with the County area response plan.

- Reviewing and updating the area plan every three years at minimum or at any other time when deemed necessary.

- DTSC Imperial CUPA will investigate and take enforcement actions involving violations of Health and Safety Codes relating to hazardous materials.

d. County Health Officer (CHO)

1) The CHO is the Chief of Medical and Health Services within the emergency organization and is responsible for coordinating treatment of injuries resulting from any hazardous materials incident within the county and cities. The CHO also has the authority under the Health and Safety Code, Sections 452 and 505, to take any preventative measures, which may be necessary to protect and preserve the public health.

2) The CHO provides emergency medical resources, including ambulance dispatch and hospital receiving for hazardous materials spills involving human exposure. The CHO (or his/her representative):

- Collects and analyzes data on the symptoms of exposed victims.

- In conjunction with emergency medical services, assist hospitals and ambulance companies in coping with possible contamination problems.

- Determine when clean-up/decontamination is complete and the area safe for reentry.

- Proclaims a "Health Emergency" and coordinate, as necessary, State agencies, private enterprise, shippers of hazardous materials, and research scientific manuals to obtain and disseminate technical information.

- Provides public information and education on the medical implications of the accident, through the PIO.

- In coordination with the AC, identifies areas of safe refuge where further pesticide exposure via inhalation or dermal contact will not occur, and assist in the coordination of an evacuation, if deemed necessary by emergency response personnel.

- Obtains data on the clinical outcome of all exposed persons and on possible health effects for such exposure.

- Provides follow-up and appropriate referral.

- Coordinates the actions of volunteer agency organizations related to health care agencies.

3) The CHO has an existing contact list for hospitals, clinics, private doctors, etc. and will take the lead role in providing information on eligibility for medical cost reimbursement for victims of non-occupational pesticide drift exposure. The DPR has developed a brochure on the eligibility for medical cost reimbursement for this purpose (Appendix I).

e. County Agricultural Commissioner (AC)

1) The AC is responsible for the regulation of pesticides in the County. This office provides for proper and safe pesticide use while protecting the public and the environment from potential adverse effects due to pesticides.

2) When the suspected material is potentially an agriculture product the AC will be notified and will assist the DTSC Imperial CUPA and the CHO in determining the best action. The AC or any agricultural personnel or responder may also initiate a hazmat response.

3) For released substances suspected of being pesticides, the AC's office will provide technical assistance and recommend clean up if required. The AC may also make the determination of whether or not an event should be escalated or de-escalated.

4) The AC will identify areas of safe refuge where further pesticide exposure via inhalation or dermal contact will not occur, and assist in the coordination of an evacuation, if deemed necessary by emergency response personnel.

5) The AC's office will investigate and prosecute cases involving violation of laws pertaining to the use of pesticides.

6) The AC should be aware of heavily used agricultural chemicals (other than baits that are used frequently at low rates), and identify those pesticides which are known to drift or volatize and are applied at high rates per acre. A list of these chemicals should be provided to the DTSC Imperial CUPA, Fire Departments, and local law enforcement. These chemicals will be cross-referenced by trade name and/or synonym as also found in the Crop Protection Handbook, which is carried on the Hazardous Materials Response vehicles in their reference library. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) will also be made available for the reference library for the substances on this list, supplemented with information from a total of at least three reference sources. This will help provide immediate access to pesticide specific information, including proper decontamination procedures and emergency medical treatment procedures based on chemical name, common name, and/or trade name being known.

f. County Public Works Director

1) The Director(s) of Public Works in the County and/or cities are responsible for maintaining roads and highways within their jurisdictions.

2) Local water supply agencies are responsible for the maintenance of community water systems. These agencies should be notified if water contamination is possible or imminent, and if all efforts have been exhausted to prevent flow of chemicals into the water system.

g. Imperial County Office of Emergency Services (Imperial County OES)

The Imperial County OES is part of the Imperial County Fire Department.

1) Hazardous materials incidents that escalate to the extreme of requiring the activation of the EOC and a proclamation of disaster will be directed and controlled from within the EOC by the Director of Emergency Services (Chief Executive Officer for the County and Mayors or City Managers in the cities).

2) Less severe incidents will be managed by the IC, Operations Chief and supported by the Imperial County OES. The Imperial County OES will insure that County executives and state and federal agencies are advised of the situation. Imperial County OES will contact the American Red Cross and arrange housing and shelter when evacuation is necessary. When appropriate, the Imperial County OES will conduct critiques and submit reports to state agencies in conjunction with the DTSC.

h. Hazardous Emergency Assistance Team (HEAT)

The HEAT response team was created through the formation of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and establishes the first joint county-wide emergency response for hazardous incidents. The JPA includes the Cities of Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial, Westmorland; the County of Imperial Fire and Environmental Health Departments, and the Imperial Irrigation District. Associate agencies to the JPA include Niland, Ocotillo, and Winterhaven Fire Protection Districts, and the Salton Community Services District. The HEAT response team is formed from personnel from the Imperial County Fire Department and the local fire departments of the cities of Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, El Centro, Holtville, and Niland. The response role of HEAT is isolation/containment, identification, mitigation, and stabilization of a hazardous materials incident.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE AGENCIES

a. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

1) The CHP has primary responsibility for traffic supervision and control on designated state highways/freeways, state owned vehicular crossings, and county roads and highways within the unincorporated areas of the county. The designated officer present at the scene of a hazardous materials incident will assume the duties of IC and maintain a close liaison with the Operations Chief.

2) The CHP will:

- Establish an ICP and coordinate resources.
- Provide traffic control in support of evacuation and/or relocation.
- Reroute traffic under CHP jurisdiction in coordination with local authorities.
- Prevent unauthorized entry into contaminated areas as requested by local authorities.
- Collect evidence and investigate illegal actions.
- Assist local authorities in investigation if requested.
- Be responsible for controlling and coordinating all state agencies (resources) conducting operations involving an incident in the county. Become the State Agency Coordinator (SAC).

- Be responsible for notification of all appropriate emergency response agencies.

- Resolve role and authority conflicts when there is a disagreement between two or more responding agencies.

b. California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

1) Cal OES is responsible for general planning, notification and coordination of state agencies, and mutual aid response to hazardous materials incidents.

2) They will, after notification by local authorities, notify all appropriate state agencies and federal agencies. Cal OES will coordinate State mutual aid.

3) The Cal OES Warning Control Officer will contact the on-call Duty Officer in CalEPA DTSC to obtain approval to use funds from the Emergency Reserve Account (ERA).

4) In cases where radioactive material is involved, Cal OES, when requested by the State Department of Health Services, will assist in coordinating state radiological monitoring of areas, personnel, and equipment in support of county authority.

5) On major incidents, the Cal OES will furnish such communication facilities as mutually determined by the Department of Health Services, Cal OES representative, and the SAC.

c. California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)

1) Upon State highways, CalTrans may contain, remove, or authorize a private company to remove all materials spilled on the highway under authority of the Street & Highway Code, Section 91.

2) When requested by CHP CalTrans will:

- Assist the CHP with traffic control and routing requirements.

- Activate and coordinate Hazardous Waste clean up contractors for all spills on State Highways.

- Assist in identification of hazardous materials by utilizing the services of private companies.

- Assist in the clean up of materials deemed as safe by DTSC Imperial CUPA for clean up by Roads Division Personnel in concurrence with CalTrans Coordinator.

- May close a state highway to all traffic as authorized by Streets & Highway Code, Section l24.

- Has 24-hour per day response capability on all necessary equipment for road repair and maintenance.

d. State Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

1) Will respond to any hazardous materials spill, which affects or may affect fish or wildlife and their habitats.

2) DFW shall be notified of any incident, which may contaminate streams or waterways. Cal OES or the IC can notify them.

3) DFW will function as state agency coordinator (SAC) for off-highway hazardous materials incidents, including oil spills.

4) In the event of an oil spill, DFW will activate the State's Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

5) DFW will supervise and approve clean up of incidents affecting the fish, game, and wildlife reserves.

6) Coordinates with appropriate agencies to provide enforcement and initiation of legal action against parties responsible for spills, releases, or illicit disposal, in addition to violations of hazardous materials transportation and handling regulations.

7) Monitors fish and wildlife.

e. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

1) The SWRCB and its nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) have broad responsibility for protection and improvement of surface and groundwater resources.

2) The Board(s) can provide:

- Expert advice on the impact of hazardous materials incidents on water resources and can arrange for water sampling, monitoring, analysis, and assessment activities.

- Statutory and regulatory authority to cause clean up; impose cease and desist or abatement orders; release available funding for appropriate activities; assess fines; and press for recovery of costs of abatement, mitigation, or contract clean up.

f. Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)

DIR has responsibilities for investigating accidents at industrial sites. If a worker is killed or injured in a hazardous materials incident, DIR will provide assistance and recommend protective measures for use by response personnel involved in clean up.

g. Department of Health Services (DHS)

DHS Radiological Health Branch (RHB) has primary authority over the use and disposal of radioactive materials in the state. RHB can provide technical advice and assistance to local authorities responding to a hazardous materials incident involving radioactive materials.

h. California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

CalEPA is responsible for regulating the hauling and disposal of hazardous waste. CalEPA provides guidelines and will provide assistance to DTSC Imperial CUPA personnel when an incident could affect the public. All incidents involving radioactive materials shall be reported to DHS.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal Agencies are available to assist if circumstances warrant their involvement. In most cases, the Federal Agencies would be requested by the State. Those agencies most likely to be involved would be:

a. National Response Center (NRC)

The NRC provides information and advice and activates the national response system.

b. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA provides coordinator for inland waters.

d. Department of Energy (DOE)

The DOE provides assistance for dealing with radiological incidents.

e. Department of Transportation (DOT)

The DOT regulates the transportation of hazardous materials.

f. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA provides disaster assistance when needed. FEMA will provide support to state and local government for disaster relief when a hazardous materials incident causes sufficient damage to merit a presidential proclamation of a major disaster.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

a. American Red Cross

- Has cooperative arrangements for planning, exchange of information and maintaining the American Red Cross and the Imperial County OES liaison regarding preparedness for disaster operations.
- Coordinates with several facilities including local schools which may be used as shelters in the event an evacuation is needed.
- Coordinates with the Imperial County OES and the Imperial County Department of Social Services. Special emphasis is placed on mass care service with mutual selection, staffing and equipping of congregate care facilities.
- Participates in community action in extending relief whenever there is suffering and want from any cause and when basic human needs are not being met.
- Provides liaison personnel at the EOC, ICP and the other designated operational headquarters, upon activation of the emergency plan.
- Selects pickup points and opens shelters as requested in coordination with the Imperial County OES. The American Red Cross will provide appropriate staffing for those shelters until advised otherwise by the Imperial County OES.

- Provides information to the EOC of the status of the shelter and its occupants.
- Provides information to the PIO to advise the public on evacuation information.
- Can provide on-site feeding to disaster workers engaged in the abatement of the hazardous materials incident.

b. Emergency Medical Services

- Provides emergency medical transportation to medical facilities.

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2644 - NOTIFICATION AND COORDINATION

A. PROVISIONS FOR NOTIFICATION OF AND COORDINATION WITH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL

1. ACTIVATION

The IC to the degree necessary shall activate this Area Plan, whenever a hazardous materials incident occurs within Imperial County. This Area Plan is concerned with hazardous materials incidents in any part of the County or cities. It covers releases to the air, land, or waters throughout the County, including rivers, reservoirs, canals, and groundwater.

Listed below are the primary categories of hazardous materials emergency response incidents:

a. Threatened Releases

A condition creating a substantial probability of harm, when the probability and potential extent of harm make it reasonably necessary to take immediate action to prevent, reduce, or mitigate damages to persons, property, or the environment.

b. Transportation Incidents

This Area Plan covers hazardous materials incidents associated with transportation by highway, railroad, pipeline, aircraft, or other means.

c. Fixed Installations

This Area Plan covers emergency responses to hazardous materials incidents located at industrial storage sites and/or processing sites, waste disposal sites, and the sites of illegal disposal (midnight dumping).

2. NOTIFICATION

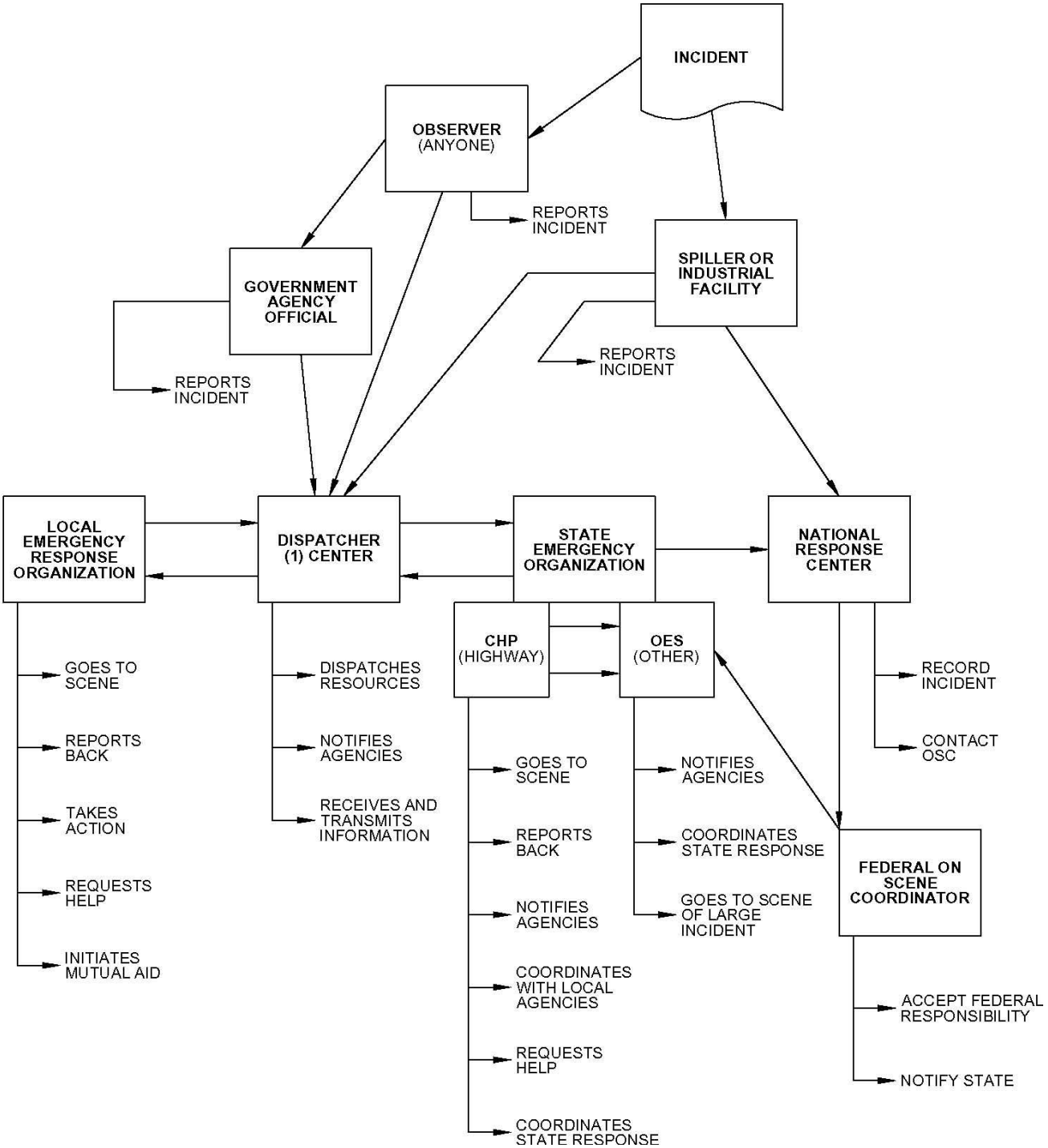
Imperial County OES, through its EOC, will be the central notification point for all hazardous materials incidents. Imperial County OES to make all other notifications to the appropriate agencies. It is assumed the general public will use 911 to report incidents.

The public agency first on scene should request any needed resources through the Imperial County OES and take whatever immediate counteractions necessary to contain and reduce the spread of the material and its effects within the training limitations of the responding personnel.

If a significant number of casualties, potential casualties, or contaminated casualties are involved, the EOC will be the Emergency Dispatch Center and will notify the appropriate EMS personnel and local hospitals.

A Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Diagram is shown below. Hazardous materials incident response emergency telephone numbers are presented in Appendix J.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT NOTIFICATION DIAGRAM



(1) CITY DISPATCH CENTERS SHALL COORDINATE WITH COUNTY AGENCIES BEFORE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is a fundamental component of the County and OA emergency management organization. As with all other aspects or emergency management, communications require a well-coordinated, multi-jurisdictional, and inter-governmental response to be successful during a hazardous materials incident. Emergency communications will require viable and interoperable communication capabilities at all levels of operation – field, local, zone, and operational area.

Coordination of all communication should be the responsibility of the appropriate Emergency Dispatch center unless there is a designated communications unit leader on scene. When Emergency Dispatch is notified of a hazardous materials incident, they should immediately dispatch the appropriate law enforcement and fire agencies. Emergency Dispatch will notify other agencies as requested by the IC and this Area Plan. These may include the DTSC Imperial CUPA, Imperial County AC, Imperial County OES, Imperial County Public Works, EMS, etc.

4. COORDINATION

a. First Responders

All hazardous materials incidents will be managed under the ICS, because in virtually all cases, fire, law enforcement, and DTSC Imperial CUPA will have statutory functional responsibility for incident mitigation. A unified command should be used in all applicable cases. Depending on incident factors, several other agencies may be requested to respond to a hazardous materials incident.

The primary means of communication during an incident or potential incident will be through the use of the primary radio frequencies licensed to public emergency response agencies in Imperial County.

Alternate means of communication may include use of cellular telephone communication. These may be activated when deemed necessary by the IC. Activation of these resources may be due to the malfunctioning or overloading of primary communication methods.

b. Law Enforcement

The law enforcement agency having the investigative authority on the scene will become the IC will be responsible for the management of the incident. The IC will set the tactics, strategy, objectives, and the action plan for the incident. The IC will maintain contact with Emergency Dispatch.

c. Fire Service

Safety of all emergency response personnel and the surrounding public should be given prime consideration. Attempts at clean up should be accomplished with local resources, when possible, before calling upon outside resources. Maximum coordination and exchange of information at all times should be through the ICS.

Fire departments or fire districts that determine they need assistance should request it through the IC.

d. Department of Toxic Substances Control Imperial CUPA (DTSC Imperial CUPA)

DTSC Imperial CUPA will respond at the request of the IC and will be notified by County Emergency Dispatch. DTSC Imperial CUPA will provide technical assistance to the IC. DTSC Imperial CUPA will also function as liaison with Imperial County OES.

e. Imperial County Environmental Health

Environmental Health will respond at the request of the IC and will be notified by County Emergency Dispatch. Environmental Health will provide technical assistance to the IC. In the event of a spill involving hazardous materials, which constitute an immediate threat to public health, Environmental Health will consult with the CHO for direction. If determined necessary, the CHO would initiate actions to proclaim a County health emergency.

5. MUTUAL AID

A statewide mutual aid system, operating within the framework of the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, allows for the progressive mobilization of resources to and from emergency response agencies, local governments, operational areas, regions, and the state with the intent to provide requesting agencies with adequate resources. The general flow of mutual aid resource requests and resources within mutual aid systems, as outlined in the EOP, is depicted on the following page.

The statewide mutual aid system includes several discipline-specific mutual aid systems, such as fire and rescue, law, medical, and public works. The adoption of SEMS does not alter existing mutual aid systems. These systems work through local government, operational area, regional, and state levels consistent with SEMS.

Mutual aid may also be obtained from other states. Interstate mutual aid may be obtained through direct state-to-state contacts via interstate agreements or coordination with federal agencies.

The Governor establishes mutual aid regions under the Emergency Services Act. Six (6) mutual aid regions numbered I-VI have been established within California. The County is within Region VI, and Region VI is in the Imperial County OES Southern Administrative Region, which includes Imperial County.

In the County, the Fire Mutual Aid Zone System has been adopted for the emergency organization. Mutual aid is coordinated first at the zone level before being upgraded to the operational level. This ensures that limited resources within the county/operational area are adequately conserved to meet the requirements of a pending or actual event.

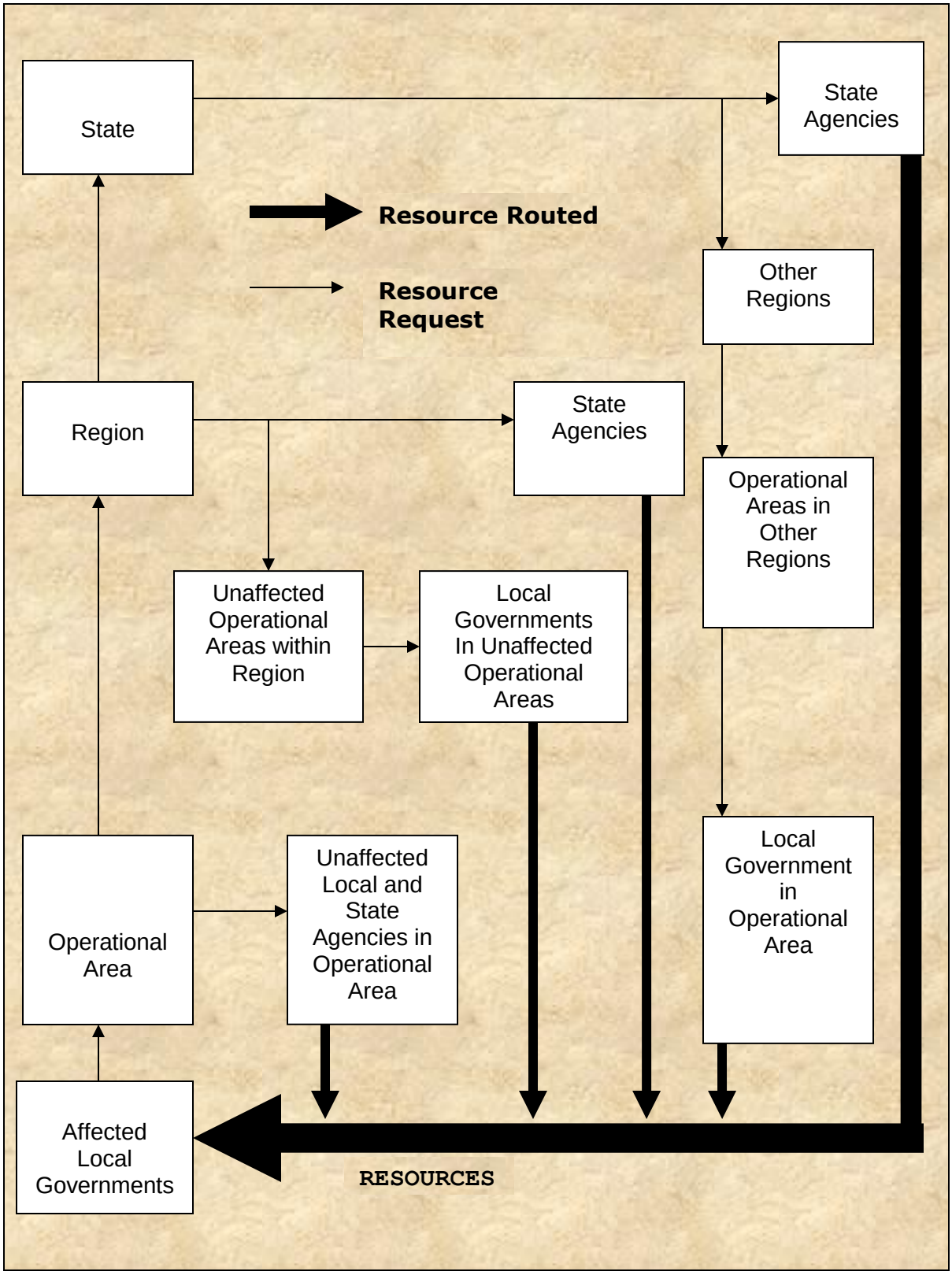
Imperial County maintains mutual aid agreements or working documents with adjacent jurisdictions with respect to hazardous materials incidents.

a. Yuma County, Arizona

The Emergency Management Mutual Aid agreement with Yuma County, Arizona, establishes guidelines and procedures for the mutual response of Yuma County and Imperial County to disasters and/or emergency situations, including hazardous materials incidents, occurring within the boundaries of the other party's jurisdiction. The agreement provides procedures to notify the Responding Party of the need for assistance, to identify available resources, and to establish a mechanism for reimbursement.

b. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

In 2007, CAL FIRE and the Imperial County Fire Department signed an Agreement for Automatic Aid within the Mountain Springs Grade, Interstate 8 Corridor for the primary purpose of providing basic wildland fire protection on lands within the area. The parties will provide automatic aid to each other to combat fire, mitigate the effects of traffic collisions, and render medical assistance to the public as necessary. The ICS is to be utilized by all parties.


State
State Agencies
Resource Routed
Resource Request
Other Regions
Region
State Agencies
Operational Areas in Other Regions
Unaffected Operational Areas within Region
Local Governments In Unaffected Operational Areas
Local Government in Operational Area
Operational Area
Unaffected Local and State Agencies in Operational Area
Affected Local Governments
RESOURCES

c. Mexico

The Pesticide Episode Response Plan establishes a system for exchanging data and providing a notification network between the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and Mexicali, which jointly utilizes the appropriate local, state, or federal agencies to report and respond to episodes involving pesticides which adversely impact health or the environment within two kilometers of either side of the international border. Episodes are generally divided into human effect episodes, which involve pesticide exposure and/or illness/injury to people; property damage or loss, that involve contamination or damage of property; and environmental effects, which involve contamination or damage to the environment in general.

Border 2020 Program is a program designed to enable tangible and measureable environmental benefits to border communities; and encourage collaboration, partnerships, and projects that result in sustainable and tangible environmental benefits. This agreement also includes U.S. tribes that are separate sovereign governments. It is coordinated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). Goals of the program include reduction of pesticide exposure to farm workers, testing and updating the emergency notification for environmental response, prepare and update joint contingency plans for preparedness and response activities of all hazardous incidents, and jointly strengthen emergency preparedness and response capabilities at all management levels. Goals achieved to date include:

- Training of 36,000 farmers on pesticide risks and safe handling.
- Establishment of chemical emergency advisory/notification mechanism between Mexico and the United States.
- Operational joint contingency plans for 15 sister cities (includes Calexico and Mexicali) in place, including exercises and the establishment of binational committees for chemical emergency prevention.
- Increase in the number of industries along the U.S.-Mexico border implementing voluntary compliance and/or self-audits, such as the development of an Environmental Management System or participation in voluntary assessment programs.

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2645- TRAINING

A. ESTABLISH PROVISIONS FOR TRAINING RESPONSE PERSONNEL TO RESPOND TO A RELEASE OR THREATENED RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

1. OVERVIEW OF TRAINING

The assurance that emergency management policies and plans are meeting their stated objectives is gained through a program of regularly scheduled tests and exercises. Tests and exercises are activities that are used to promote an awareness of potential hazards and the need for an effective emergency management program. Testing and evaluation of emergency operations plans and procedures, training response personnel in carrying out assigned responsibilities, and demonstrating the operational capabilities of the jurisdiction are ongoing goals. Local preparedness to assure that emergency forces "do the right things at the right time" is built by a repetitive cycle of planning, training, and exercising. Training of emergency management organization (EOC, ICS, and/or other agencies) components can take many forms. They can be in the form of workshops, lectures, on-line self-testing, and at roll call. They will generally fall within one of the following types of training activity.

a. Discussion or Orientation Exercise

This is a low key, non-stressed training approach in which members of the emergency organization are "walked" through required procedures and plans. This approach is best used as an introduction to specific subject matter and to clarify roles and responsibilities.

b. Drills

Drills are a periodic activity for perfecting skills in specific operations, starting first with discussion/orientation exercises and graduating to full-scale exercises. This provides the student with a conceptual framework for clearly understanding his/her role in the emergency organization.

In developing an exercise, consideration should be given to the type of exercise, the purpose and goals, and the hazard(s) on which to base the exercise. The selection of the hazard should be based on actual or potential threats identified in the hazard analysis. The County and OA should avoid concentrating on any single hazard year after year, but should diversify to cover adequately all major hazardous materials contingencies.

One of the most important aspects of any exercise is getting the right people to participate. Major OA exercises should involve County department heads, key staff and representatives from the private sector and cities and towns, volunteer organizations, the media, hospitals, special districts, and utilities.

The active participation of organization chief executives would give the exercise the necessary importance and encourage full support of each element of the OA emergency organization. An exercise is of limited value without the participation of the right people.

c. Tabletop exercise

This is an activity in which elected or appointed officials and key staff are presented with simulated emergency situations without time constraints. It is usually informal, held in conference room environment, and is designed to elicit constructive discussion by the participants as they attempt to resolve problems based on existing emergency operations plans. The purpose is for the participants to evaluate policy, plans and procedures, and resolve coordination and responsibilities in a non-threatening format.

d. Functional Exercise

This activity, which is also known as a Sub-system Exercise, is designed to test and/or evaluate the capability of an individual function (e.g., communications, care and shelter) or complex activity within a function. It is applicable where the activity is capable of being effectively evaluated in isolation from other emergency functions.

e. Full Scale Exercise

This exercise is intended to evaluate the operational capability of emergency management systems in an interactive manner. It involves testing of a major portion of the basic elements existing within emergency operations plans and organizations. This type of exercise includes the mobilization of personnel and resources and the actual movement of emergency workers, equipment, and resources required to demonstrate coordination and response capability.

f. Tests

Tests measure the actual readiness capability of procedures, personnel, facilities, or equipment against the capability described in emergency operations plans. Examples include tests of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), call trees, and EOC or zone activation procedures.

2. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE AGENCIES.

Hazardous materials emergency response training will be accomplished through various avenues: employee training, exercises, and incident critiques. Pursuant to standards set by the Department of Industrial Relations (Cal/OSHA) (CCR TITLE 8, Section 5192) employees who are responsible for responding to hazardous materials emergency situations that may expose them to hazardous substances must be trained in how to respond to expected emergencies. The intent of the Area Plan is to coordinate hazardous materials training for all response personnel.

The HEAT response team provides emergency response to hazardous materials incidents in Imperial County. All fire personnel employed by the HEAT Associate Member Agencies are trained by the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), and at a minimum, are trained at the level of First Responder Operations (FRO). Classroom training is done on a monthly basis, and joint training exercises are held quarterly. Periodic international, multi-agency hazardous materials exercises have been conducted in conjunction with Mexico. All HEAT Team members will receive refresher training on an annual basis on those tasks or subjects that they have not used enough to maintain proficiency.

State law (CCR TITLE 8, Section 5192) requires staff assigned to emergency response duties associated with hazardous materials to receive minimum levels of training in several areas of hazardous materials response. Activities that are required when responding to incidents can be divided into five broad, interacting elements:

a. Recognition

Identification of the substance involved and the characteristics which determine its degree of hazard.

b. Evaluation

Impact or risk the substances pose to public health and the environment.

c. Control

Methods to eliminate or reduce the impact of the incident.

d. Information

Knowledge acquired concerning the conditions or circumstances particular to an incident.

e. Safety

Protection of responders from harm or risk and recognition of psychological stresses from potential exposures to unknown hazards.

To achieve minimum levels of proficiency in these five elements, there are seven levels of training that must be provided to emergency response staff potentially exposed to hazardous materials.

3. SEVEN LEVELS OF TRAINING

a. Level 1: First Responder Basic Awareness

1) Target Group

First responders at the awareness level are individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the release. They would take no further action beyond notifying the authorities, and if possible, isolate the incident and deny entry.

Examples of personnel recommended to receive awareness training:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Agencies
- Public Works
- CalTrans Maintenance Crews
- Emergency Medical Personnel
- Public Utility and Industry personnel involved with hazardous material
- Parks Department Personnel

2) Training Needs

Persons at the Awareness Level (Level 1) should be trained in hazard identification and proper notification procedures. First responders at the awareness level shall be employer certified in the following:

- An understanding of what hazardous materials are, and the risks associated with them in an incident.

- An understanding of the potential outcomes associated with an emergency created when hazardous substances are present.

- The ability to recognize the presence of hazardous substances in an emergency.

- The ability to identify the hazardous substances, if possible.

- An understanding of the role of the first responder awareness individual in the employer's emergency response plan (including site security and control), and the U.S. DOT's Emergency Response Guidebook.

- The ability to realize the need for additional resources and to make appropriate notifications to the communications center.

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, within six months of employment.

- Annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies, or should be able to demonstrate competency in those areas at least yearly.

- Minimum length of time required to cover Awareness Level (Level 1) topics in one course: 4-16 hours, depending on the agency need and responsibility (e.g., law enforcement 4-8 hours).

b. Level 2: First Responder Operations

1) Target Group

First responders at the operations level are local fire departments who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release. They are trained to respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposures.

Examples of other personnel recommended receiving operations level training:

- Law Enforcement

- Fire Fighters

- Public Works

- CalTrans

- All other responders at the Awareness Level with greater involvement

2) Training Needs

- Operations Level (Level 2) personnel should have all the training of Level 1, plus further employer certified training.
- Knowledge of the basic hazard and risk assessment techniques.
- Know how to select and use proper PPE provided to the first responder operational level.
- An understanding of basic hazardous materials terms.
- Know how to perform basic control, containment, and/or confinement operations and rescue injured or contaminated persons within the capabilities of the resources and PPE available with their unit.
- Know how to implement basic equipment, victim, and rescue personnel decontamination procedures.
- An understanding of the relevant standard operating procedures and termination procedures.

(3) Training Frequency

- Initially, at least eight hours of training in addition to Awareness or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the areas above.
- Annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies, or should be able to demonstrate competency in those areas at least yearly.
- Required course time (assuming Level 1 taken) 8-24 hours, depending on agency needs and responsibility.

c. Level 3: First Responder Operational-Decon

1) Target Group

These emergency response individuals are fire department personnel who will provide decontamination support in the Contamination-Reduction (Warm) Zone.

2) Training Needs

First Responder Operational-Decon personnel shall be employer certified in the following:

- Understand and know how to implement equipment, victim, and rescue personnel decontamination procedures.
- Identify various types of decontamination and their appropriate application.
- Establish a decon corridor and describe the necessary equipment and personnel functions needed to perform various decontamination operations.

- Describe the Decontamination Leader Position Description and duties under the ICS.

- Identify the types, selection criteria, and limitations of personal protective clothing and respiratory protection associated with decontamination.

- Describe the purpose and need for medical monitoring and the signs and symptoms of heat related illnesses.

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, First Responder Operational-Decon personnel shall have received eight (8) hours of training equal to the CSTI or State Fire Marshall First Responder Operational-Decon training program.

- Annual refresher training shall be completed.

d. Level 4: Specialist Employees

1) Target Group

These individuals may be employees of public agencies or business representatives.

These specialty employees will respond at the request of the IC. These persons will function at the specialist employee level (CCR Title 8, Section 5192 q (5)). They will provide technical advice and/or assistance to the IC. Technical assistance may include sampling, identification of chemicals, limited treatment of hazardous wastes, mitigation of releases, which may include plugging, patching, or other methods to stop a release and evaluation of health and environmental risks. Specialist Employees may or may not be assigned to an ICS positions, and may or may not function within the Exclusion (Hot) or Contamination-Reduction Zone (Warm) Zones.

2) Training Needs

Employers will determine training needs according to the employees' regular job duties.

3) Training Frequency

Specialist employees shall receive training or demonstrate competency in the area of their specialty annually.

e. Level 5: Hazardous Materials Technicians

1) Target Group

Hazardous Materials Technicians are individuals who respond to potential releases for the purpose of stopping the release. They assume a more aggressive role than a first responder at the operations level in that they will approach the point of release in order to plug, patch, or otherwise stop the release of a hazardous substance.

2) Training Needs

Their employer shall certify Hazardous Materials Technicians in the following:

- Know how to implement the employer's emergency plan.
- Know the classification, identification, and verification of known and unknown hazardous materials by using field survey instruments and equipment.
- Be able to function within an assigned role in the ICS.
- Know how to select and use proper specialized chemical PPE provided to the Hazardous Materials Technician.
- Understand hazard and risk assessment techniques.
- Be able to perform advanced control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capability of the resources and PPE available within the unit.
- Understand and implement decontamination procedures.
- Understand termination procedures.
- Understand basic chemical and toxicological terminology and behavior.

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, Hazardous Materials Technicians shall have received at least one hundred and sixty (160) hours of training equal to the CSTI or State Fire Marshall Hazardous Materials Technician training program.
- Annual refresher training shall be completed.
- A minimum of 24 hours is required for annual refresher training.

f. Level 6: Hazardous Materials Specialist

1) Target Group

Hazardous Materials Specialists are individuals who respond with and provide support to Hazardous Materials Technicians. Their duties parallel those of the Hazardous Materials Technicians; however, those duties require a more directed or specific knowledge of the various substances they may be called to contain. The Hazardous Materials Specialist would also act as liaison with federal, state, local, and other governmental authorities with regard to site activities.

2) Training Needs

- Hazardous Materials Specialists shall be certified by their employer.
- Know how to implement the local emergency incident response plan.
- Understand classification, identification, and verification of known and unknown materials by using advanced survey instruments and equipment.

- Know the Imperial County Area Plan for Hazardous Materials Emergency Response.

- Be able to select and use proper specialized chemical PPE provided to the Hazardous Materials Specialist.

- Understand in-depth hazard and risk assessment techniques.

- Be able to perform specialized control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and PPE available.

- Be able to determine and implement decontamination procedures.

- Have the ability to develop a site safety plan.

- Understand chemical, radiological, and toxicological terminology and behavior.

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, Hazardous Materials Specialists shall have received an additional eighty (80) hours of training equal to the CSTI or State Fire Marshall Hazardous Materials Specialist training program.

- Annual refresher training shall be completed.

- A minimum of 24 hours is required for annual refresher training.

g. Level 7: Incident Commander (IC)

1) Target Group

Agency employee(s) who will assume control of the incident scene beyond the first responder awareness level (e.g., Operations Chief, IC, etc.).

2) Training Needs

Persons trained at Level 7 should be trained in Levels 1, 2 and have further employer certified competency in:

- Planning, development, and implementation of response plans
  - Based on knowledge from pre-incident surveys of business sites, sensitive environments, etc.
  - Staff preparation/training.
  - Measures to increase public awareness relating to hazardous materials safety.
- Assessment/Recognition
  - Investigation/documentation of incidents.

- Identification of source, type of material, and its degree of hazard.
- Assessing cost of containment.
- Understanding the importance of liability and substantiation of cost recovery claims.
- Personnel protection required.

- Notification/Response Coordination
  - Know and be able to implement the ICS.
  - Knowledge of the state emergency response plan and of the Federal Regional Response Team.
  - Knowledge of proper notification protocols - follow up measures to ensure proper agency notifications.
  - Know how to implement the local emergency response plan.
- Containment and Control
  - Isolation/containment practices, procedures, policies.
  - Evacuation procedures, policies, contingency plans.
  - Know and understand the importance of decontamination procedures.
  - Overview of funding mechanisms/cost accounting methods for control/containment.
- Safety (Protection of responders from harm or risk)
  - Hazards and risks associated with employees working in chemical protective clothing.
  - Standardized safety procedures.
  - Medical surveillance and health monitoring.
- Regulation - knowledge of pertinent local, state, and federal regulations (example: waste labeling)
- Media relations/public information

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, at least 24 hours of training, in addition to the Operations level course work.
- Annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain competencies, or should be able to demonstrate competency in those areas at least annually

- Time required for Level 4 basic orientation course (assuming Levels 1 and 2 have already been completed) is 24 to 40 hours of IC training.

B. TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

State law (CCR TITLE 8, Section 5192, SEMS) requires documentation for hazardous materials response training. Each agency will be responsible for maintaining the documentation on employee hazardous materials training. Each agency's training officer is responsible for the maintenance and completeness of these training files. A training log should be maintained listing each employees annual refresher due date.

The HEAT response team's Training Subcommittee maintains all training records for all HEAT Team members with the following:

- Each HEAT Team member record will include the subjects each member has completed and any evaluations or tests taken. Summaries of actual emergency response activities will be inserted to help with evaluation of training needs.

- Each jurisdiction will be required to submit quarterly reports of training they have provided to each of their team members, so the information can be transferred to the master training file.

- Training records will be reviewed at least twice a year in order to determine the needs of the HEAT Team members for refresher training.

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2646- PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFORMATION

A. PROCEDURES FOR SITE SAFETY DURING A RELEASE OR THREATENED RELEASE

1. LAW ENFORCEMENT

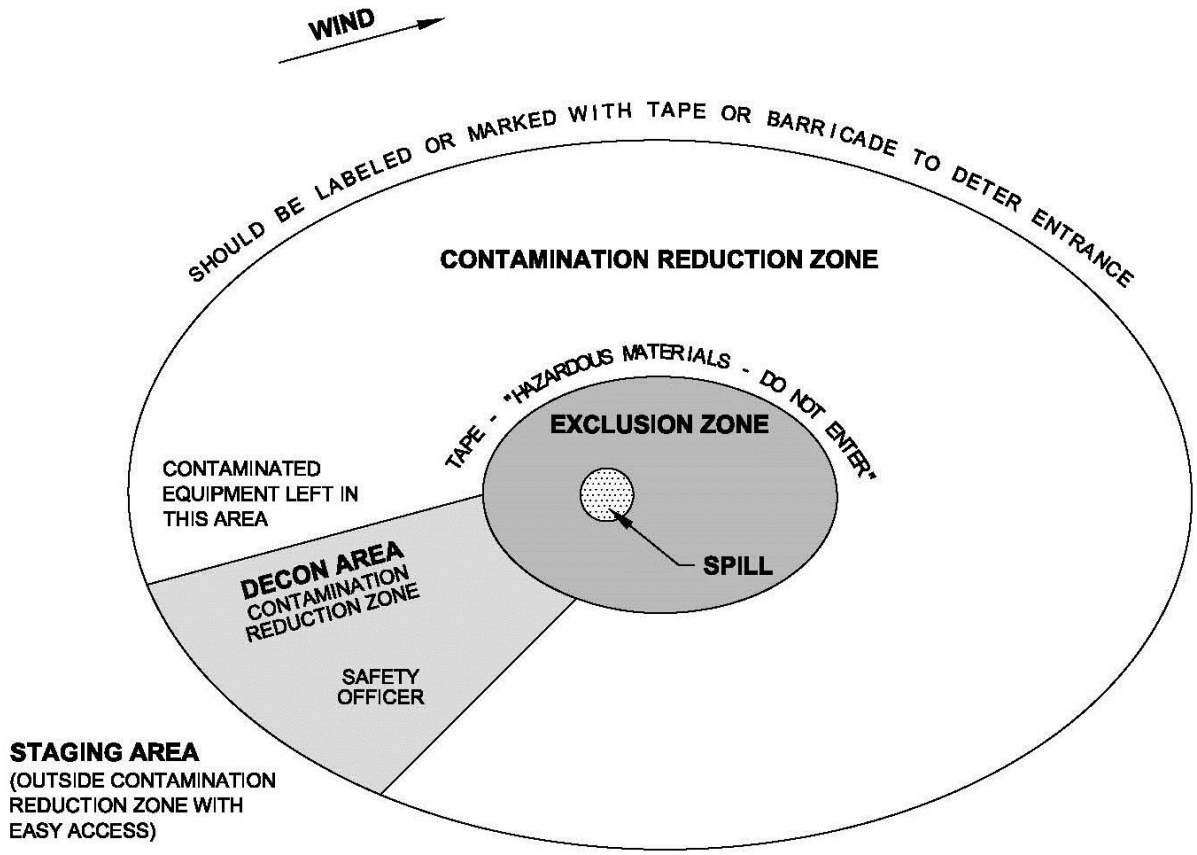
Law enforcement includes CHP, the County Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's office and local police departments. The authority for the management of the scene of an on-highway spill or disaster is vested in the appropriate law enforcement agency having primary traffic investigative authority on the highway where the spill occurs. When additional site security personnel are needed, the cooperation of industry may be requested in providing site security assistance to the responsible law enforcement agency.

The local law enforcement agency assumes the role of IC unless control is relinquished pursuant to CVC 2454b. The IC has the duties of establishing the ICP, traffic control, and providing security to the scene and surrounding area. On-site perimeter security should be accomplished by utilization of the "Two Ring" security concept as shown on the following page. When appropriate the IC will be responsible for instructing the PIO to issue the evacuation notification and the reentry notification. The IC is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the various agencies, which may be involved in the incident. The IC will maintain contact with the designated EOC.

All information of significant public consequence will be cleared with the IC by the PIO before it is released to the media. Its point of release will either be on scene or the Imperial County OES/Fire Department's EOC located at 1078 Dogwood Road, Heber, California. The IC will clear information for release after he/she has been satisfied that the overall incident mitigation effort will be enhanced by the release.

Reentry into the incident scene by non-emergency response personnel shall not be permitted until the emergency has been deemed to be over by the agency with incident command responsibility. In cases where hazardous conditions remain (e.g. cleanup of a hazmat is pending), responsibility for safety of reentering non-emergency response personnel shall be turned over by the IC to an appropriate person who shall have a thorough understanding of the specific conditions and needed precautions. In situations where uncontrolled reentry would result in unreasonable additional hazards and/or confusion, the entity charged with site security will maintain control and gradually increase access on a priority basis until complete reentry has been achieved.

PERIMETER SECURITY



B. PROVISION FOR INFORMING BUSINESS PERSONNEL AND THE AFFECTED PUBLIC OF SAFETY PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW DURING A RELEASE OR THREATENED RELEASE

1. GENERAL

Informing business personnel and the affected public of safety precautions, and/or evacuation procedures to follow during a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, shall be the responsibility of the Imperial County Sheriff's Department for unincorporated areas and local police departments within the incorporated cities. At the request of the IC, assistance shall be provided from other appropriate local response agencies. The following procedures should be followed to ensure that adequate and accurate information is disseminated to the general public in a timely manner:

- Unless otherwise stated, the central point for the release of information to the public concerning safety procedures and/or evacuation warnings during a hazardous materials incident will be the IC or his/her designated representative at a location well away from the incident.

- The IC or his/her designated representative shall access Language Line translation service to assist in communicating with affected individuals in their native language, should there be no other emergency responder on scene who can do so in person.

- Where it appears that evacuation of the public from a hazardous materials incident is imminent, the following should be considered as a minimum:

    - Persons being asked to evacuate should be told where to go and how to get there.

    - The public should be told what Emergency Alerting System (EAS) station to listen to.

    - Imperial County OES will be responsible for arranging for shelter and necessary conveniences.

    - A public address system will be used to inform the public and businesses where to evacuate or instructed where to shelter in place.

2. RECEPTION CENTERS

Imperial County and cities have a general understanding with school districts to use public schools as reception centers where the American Red Cross will provide registration and locator services in mass evacuation situations. The American Red Cross will manage the shelters. County Social Services Department will be responsible for arranging other temporary housing and issuance of emergency food stamps when needed. The county fairground, local churches, and volunteer private homes are potential housing resources.

3. RESPONDING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

Each agency shall perform those tasks charged to that agency related to the emergency operation and shall confer with the IC for coordination of those tasks. The role definitions in this Area Plan describe the areas of responsibility for each agency or department.

Only the IC shall authorize requests for assistance from private agencies.

Imperial County Environmental Health is a repository for all hazardous materials incident reports for statistical purposes and historical data. DTSC Imperial CUPA shall contact Cal OES to provide response information for State statistical purposes. If DTSC Imperial CUPA was not requested, the IC will be responsible for contacting the State and CalEPA DTSC.

C. DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO PUBLIC AND THE EAS

1. INFORMATION/MEDIA RELATIONS

Providing factual and timely information to the media is an extremely important function. To provide inaccurate information or appear disinterested in assisting media representatives at the scene of a hazardous materials incident would be counterproductive.

Therefore, it will be necessary to identify a SAFE area for the media to be properly briefed and escorted if necessary to ensure they receive accurate data without jeopardizing the effectiveness of the emergency operations.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPERATING CONCERNS

The IC may designate a Public Information Officer (PIO) that will become the only source of information to be released to the news media. This person would be responsible for:

- Issuing the EAS announcement (when activated by the Imperial County OES Coordinator).
- Maintaining a current status of all activities involving the hazardous materials incident.
- Ensuring that all releases to the media and public are coordinated among all participating agencies.

For hazardous materials incidents, the PIO should follow the Public Information Release Guidelines for hazardous materials incidents. Public information release actions will initially be taken by the on-scene PIO assigned by the IC. (Additional public information staff may be requested from the jurisdiction). The public information staff at the EOC may be mobilized depending on the extent of the incident. A Joint Information Center (JIC) may also be established at the EOC that will ensure all press releases are consistent, coordinated, validated, and have the approval of the IC. The media should be briefed periodically throughout the year on hazardous materials incident response and related procedures. All releases must be cleared through the IC and technical advisor at the scene or Emergency Manager at the EOC.

3. NEWS MEDIA INGRESS TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT SCENES

The California Penal Code, Section 409.5(d) permits members of the news media to enter hazardous substance spill incidents.

Once properly identified with a valid press card, the news media shall be advised that entering the scene may be hazardous to their health and safety, and they should exercise due caution before entering.

The press shall be immediately advised of the danger and a recommendation made that all personnel remain at a safe distance. Equipment and/or personnel subjected to possible contamination, resulting from encroachment upon contaminated area or other events, will be considered to be contaminated and decontamination measures taken.

D. PROVISIONS FOR INFORMING MEDICAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES OF THE NATURE OF THE INCIDENT AND THE SUBSTANCE(S) INVOLVED

The IC will be responsible for notifying the medical facility of any exposure or possible exposure to hazardous substance(s). The IC should provide the medical facility with as much information prior to victim(s) arrival at the medical facility.

El Centro Regional Medical Center is the Disaster Control Facility (DCF). El Centro Regional Medical Center is a Level II Basic Emergency Medical Services Facility. The Disaster Control Facility will be responsible on a 24-hour basis for:

- Coordinating the means of transportation of casualties and medical resources to health care facilities.
- Coordinating the relocation of patients from damaged or untenable health care facilities.
- Communicating with regional poison control centers to obtain toxicological or any other pertinent information they may provide or have access to.

Emergency Medical Services is responsible on a 24 hour basis for:

- Coordinating disaster medical care operations within the County.
- Coordinating the procurement and allocation of critical public and private medical and other resources required to support disaster medical care operations in the affected area.
- Maintaining liaison with the appropriate American Red Cross Chapter and volunteer services agencies within the jurisdiction.
- Maintaining liaison with the IC or designated contact for other relevant emergency services such as: communications, fire and rescue, health, law enforcement and traffic control, transportation, welfare, etc.
- Requests for additional medical transportation resources, if local resources are insufficient, will be made through the EMS Agency.
- Communicating with other EMS Agencies on matters requiring assistance from their jurisdictions, state or federal governments.

E. PROVISION FOR EVACUATION PLANS

1. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Several types of hazards may require the temporary relocation of people from threatened areas. There are four types of evacuation:

- Limited - A small group of people from a small area.
- Mass - Entire city, suburb, or region from a large area.
- Spontaneous - Orders not necessary, danger obvious.
- Forced - Governmental authority invoked (409.5 CA. Pen. Code, et seq.) to move people from threatened areas.

Under ideal circumstances there will be enough time for radio and television stations to broadcast the required evacuation information via the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and/or Reverse 911. Also, if sufficient time is available, copies of the evacuation notice can be locally produced and distributed. Regardless of the means, the evacuation warning should include minimum information such as:

- Type of Evacuation (voluntary or mandatory)
- Best available route(s) out of the area
- Location of evacuation center(s)/shelter(s)
- Anticipated duration of the emergency
- Time remaining before the situation becomes critical

Specific evacuation requirements will vary with each situation, but they should be carried out in a manner consistent with other critical functions.

The decision to evacuate due to a hazardous materials incident is determined by the IC, based upon the following factors:

- Type of hazardous material involved
- Condition of the material
- Duration and amount of release
- Condition of containment devices
- Wind speed, direction, and potential changes
- Weather conditions: temperature, relative humidity, and barometric pressure

An evacuation should be implemented, if sufficient time exists to complete the evacuation before the hazard reaches any part of the evacuation area, and if the evacuation would cause a lesser risk to public health and safety than sheltering-in-place. Fire agencies and DTSC Imperial CUPA have the ability to determine evacuation distances. Fire agencies may use the evacuation distances referenced in the DOT's Emergency Response Guidebook. The Emergency Response Guidebook can serve as a guide to first responders (law enforcement, fire, health, transportation) for initial action to be taken at a hazardous materials incident, including basic emergency actions and evacuation distances for various materials.

2. EVACUATION RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Incident Commander (IC)

- Takes appropriate actions to see that information on the evacuation is disseminated to all individuals within the area to be evacuated. Law enforcement personnel will not be utilized for evacuation in areas where protective clothing is required.
- Identifies area to be evacuated and specifies lines of the perimeter, the locations of emergency shelters, and transportation availability if needed.
- Coordinates to initiate the evacuation.
- Ensures that evacuation information is continuously disseminated to the EOC and other agencies.

- Verifies whether the evacuation is emergency or precautionary.
- Takes measures to prevent and control against looting in the evacuation area.

b. Imperial County Sheriff's Department

- Has primary responsibility to execute, coordinate, and control the evacuation in unincorporated areas.

c. City Police Departments

- Has primary responsibility to execute, coordinate, and control the evacuation in incorporated areas within their jurisdictions.

d. Imperial County Office of Emergency Services (Imperial County OES)/ Imperial County Fire Department

- Coordinates shelter locations and evacuation pickup points with American Red Cross.
- Notifies appropriate individuals on the Disaster Alert Roster.
- Notifies Cal OES of the situation and provides appropriate updates.
- Provides continuous monitoring of the situation to ensure that activities are proceeding as directed and that agencies involved in the support operation are informed of the status of the evacuation.
- Coordinates with DTSC to recover costs associated with the clean up of hazardous materials releases.
- Maintaining liaison with the IC or designated contact for emergency services such as communications, fire, and rescue.

e. City Fire Departments

- Assists appropriate law enforcement agency in coordination of evacuation.

f. American Red Cross

- Opens shelters as requested and provides staffing. Opening shelters shall be directed by the Imperial County OES when feasible.
- Provides comprehensive evaluation of emergency evacuation needs.
- Provides information to the EOC on the status of the shelter and its occupants.
- Coordinates with the EOC and the PIO the dissemination of information to the public.

g. Imperial County Public Health Department

- Assists with the coordination of evacuation.

h. California Highway Patrol

- Coordinate and control evacuations resulting from hazardous materials incidents on state transportation routes.

i. School Districts

- Coordinates with American Red Cross on the availability of schools to be used as shelters.
- Coordinates with the EOC on public information.

j. Department(s) of Public Works

- Assists with the coordination of evacuation through knowledge of public transportation routes.
- Provides signs, barricades, and other traffic control where necessary.

k. CalTRANS

- Assists with the coordination of evacuation through knowledge of state transportation routes.
- Provides signs, barricades, and other traffic control where necessary.

3. SHELTER LOCATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

Evacuation procedures will be coordinated between the IC or a designated representative and the Imperial County OES. Together, these representatives will select the most appropriate area for establishing a shelter. The Imperial County OES will coordinate with the American Red Cross and the appropriate school districts to select the best location within the area that has been identified for sheltering. Upon determination of the shelter location, the Imperial County OES will coordinate with the IC to establish evacuee pick-up points.

Sheltering information including evacuation centers and evacuee pick-up points will be disseminated to the following:

- Incident Site
- Evacuation Section
- News Media via the PIO
- Other agencies as appropriate

4. POST-EVACUATION

Once an evacuation area is deemed safe for reentry, the IC will facilitate the removal of barricades or collapse of the evacuation perimeter. The IC will coordinate the reentry with the EOC, and the EOC will contact emergency shelters to develop plans for returning the evacuees to the area. The PIO will be responsible for disseminating post-evacuation information to the media.

Depending on the incident, CHO should provide post information to evacuees regarding their evacuated areas. This may include information on:

- Cleaning procedures for clothing, cooking utensils, and furniture
- Handling of food substances
- Care of pets
- Care of plants
- Lingering or long-term health effects

After the incident conclusion, the Imperial County OES will assemble information from the Red Cross, and other agencies participating in the evacuation for the consolidation of appropriate formal records.

5. SHELTERING IN PLACE

Sheltering-in-place is a viable alternative to evacuation for incidents involving a short-term, unexpected toxic airborne threat or release when there is little or no time for notification and evacuation. Sheltering-in-place requires that people stay indoors and make their homes and buildings airtight. This can be done by closing doors, windows and vents and by closing air conditioning and heating systems until the toxic cloud passes. Once the toxic cloud has passed, the concentration of toxic material indoors may be higher than outdoors, due to infiltration. It may then be necessary for the occupants to move outdoors.

a. Decision to Shelter in Place

The decision to shelter-in-place is the IC's responsibility and should be based on the following:

- Type and concentration of material released
- Estimated duration of the release
- Location of the release
- Toxicological effects
- Atmospheric conditions, including wind direction, wind speed, stability, weather, temperature, and dispersion patterns
- Time of Day
- Number of people at risk
- Type of population (ambulatory, non-ambulatory)
- Location of population
- Emergency response and response time
- Time necessary to conduct evacuation

- Adequacy of the shelters

b. Instructions for Public

The effectiveness of sheltering-in-place is dependent on initial public information and periodic informational updates. The public should be instructed to do the following:

- Close all internal and external doors and close and lock all windows.
- Stop drafts using wet towels in gaps under doors and duct tape around sides/cracks on doors and windows.
- Turn off outside ventilation and close vents to the outside.
- Turn off all sources of ignition, if it is safe to do so.
- Turn home air-conditioners and switch inlets to closed position. Seal gaps around air-conditioners windows units with tape, plastic sheeting, paper, or aluminum wrap.
- Turn off and cover exhaust fans in kitchens, bathrooms, dryer vents, and other spaces.
- Turn off clothes dryer.
- Close fireplace dampers.
- Hold a wet cloth or handkerchief over nose and mouth.
- For a higher degree of protection, stay in the bathroom, close the door, and turn on the cold water in the shower using a strong spray to "wash" the air.
- If an explosion is possible outdoors, close drapes, curtains, and shades over windows. Stay away from windows to prevent potential injury from flying glass.
- Minimize the use of elevators in buildings. Elevators tend to "pump" outdoor air through a building as they travel up and down.
- Once the toxic cloud passes and all steps have been taken to ensure that the incident will not recur, the ventilation must be increased by opening windows and doors, turning on ventilation systems and moving occupants outdoors.
- Other specifics related to the incident.

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2647- SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

A. LISTING AND DESCRIPTION OF AVAILABLE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED FOR POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES IN THE JURISDICTION, AND REFLECTING RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

1. GENERAL

This section contains specific information on equipment and supplies maintained by Imperial County Fire Department, as it is most likely to respond operationally to Level II, III, and IV hazardous materials incidents. The HEAT Team has the ability to respond to hazardous materials incidents at various levels and has designated staff to test, maintain, and decontaminate equipment on a regular basis.

2. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The HEAT response team maintains a support vehicle. This vehicle will respond to incidents in accordance with the HEAT policies and procedures. A current list of supplies and equipment maintained on and in support of this vehicle is contained in Appendix K.

Testing, maintenance, and decontamination of equipment is completed as follows:

- Monitoring equipment is operated, tested, charged and field calibrated according to manufacturer's instructions/recommendations by HEAT Team members. Monitoring equipment will have a true calibration as recommended by the manufacturer. Documentation of equipment maintenance and calibration shall be maintained by HEAT Team.

- Communication equipment (cellular phones, portable radios) is operated, tested and charged on a weekly basis by team members. Maintenance is performed by a local radio repair and maintenance company, as needed.

- Protective clothing used by HEAT Team is both reusable and disposable, depending upon the use and style of product.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENTS/DISTRICTS

Fire protection agencies will be responsible for maintaining and testing self contained breathing apparatus, and other fire fighting equipment. This equipment will be tested and maintained according to manufacturer's specifications.

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2648- CRITIQUE AND FOLLOW UP

A. DEBRIEFING

After each Level I, Level II, Level III, or Level IV HAZMAT response, the Fire and Environmental Health personnel gather all digital videos, still photos, chronological logs, etc. from available sources (dispatch center, news media, etc.) and jointly critique the overall response. Information from the critique will be compared against procedures outlined within this Area Plan and current departmental operating procedures for validity and corrected wherever deficiencies are found to exist. Videotapes and news articles will be maintained by the County Fire Department for future educational reference.

Interagency incident critiques when applicable will be held to provide a means to determine the efficiency of the response efforts and provide methods of improving safety and incident operations. The critique is held to determine:

- What went wrong?
- What went right?
- What was learned?
- Can we improve our operations in the future?
- Should the plan be changed?
- What costs were incurred?

To perform the evaluation of the HAZMAT response, all reports on the incident will be reviewed. The critique should not be used to point accusing fingers and to lay blame on any one person or agency.

B. FOLLOW-UP

Based on the outcome of the critique, it should be determined what items need to be checked on and who should conduct the follow-up with respect to the following:

- Recovery of agency costs
- Enforcement actions if necessary
- Corrections in plans and procedures
- Agency responsibilities
- Equipment Inventory