

Hazardous Material Response

413.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

State **MODIFIED**

Hazardous materials present a potential harm to employees resulting from their exposure. To comply with Title 8, California Code of Regulations, § 5194, the following is to be the policy of this department.

413.1.1 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DEFINED

State **MODIFIED**

A hazardous material is a substance which by its nature, containment and reactivity, has the capability of inflicting harm during exposure; characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant or strong sensitizer and thereby posing a threat to health when improperly managed.

413.2 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

State **MODIFIED**

Employees may encounter situations involving suspected hazardous materials, such as at the scene of a traffic accident, illegal drug manufacturing laboratory chemical spill or fire. When employees come into contact with a suspected hazardous material, certain steps should be taken to protect themselves and citizens. Employees shall exercise universal precautions and wear personal protective gear to include, but not limited to (1) eye protection, (2) protective gloves and (3) face mask. If none is readily available, the on scene supervisor or incident commander shall make efforts to obtain the personal protective gear from (1) fire department personnel or (2) staff at John F. Kennedy hospital to ensure all officers on scene are equipped with the adequate gear.

The following steps should be considered at any scene involving suspected hazardous materials:

- (a) Attempt to identify the type of hazardous substance. (Identification can be determined by placard, driver's manifest or statements from the person transporting).
- (b) Notify the Fire Department.
- (c) Provide first-aid for injured parties if it can be done safely and without contamination.
- (d) Begin evacuation of the immediate area and surrounding areas, depending on the substance. Voluntary evacuation should be considered; however, depending on the substance, mandatory evacuation may be necessary.
- (e) Notify the local health authority. Such notification is mandatory when a spilled or released item is a pesticide (Health and Safety Code § 105215).
- (f) Notify the Department of Toxic Substances Control. This is mandatory when an officer comes in contact with, or is aware of, the presence of a suspected hazardous substance at a site where an illegal controlled substance is or was manufactured (Health and Safety § 25354.5).

413.2.1 Hazardous Material Response

Indio Police Department

Indio PD Policy Manual

Hazardous Material Response

- (a) Fire Department personnel are responsible for determining the extent of danger, handling the hazardous substances, notifying state and/or federal/military authorities, and caring for any person exposed to the hazardous material.
- (b) Police personnel are responsible for protecting the scene, rendering first aid as directed, and controlling traffic.
- (c) No one is to be allowed into the affected area without specific need, and then only with the specific permission of the person in charge of handling the incident.

413.2.2 RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

- (a) Officers investigating an incident which requires the handling of radioactive materials shall:
 - (b) (a) Keep all persons and conveyances at a safe distance from radioactive materials or liquid runoff.
 - (c) (b) Notify the Watch Commander of any barricades or other special traffic control devices needed.
 - (d) (c) Immediately notify, or cause to be notified, the Patrol Lieutenant and Executive Staff. Notification shall include the name of the owner of the material (if known), location, type and quantity of material involved.

413.2.3 ILLEGAL DRUG MANUFACTURING LABORATORIES

If an officer encounters a home made drug manufacturing laboratory, they shall immediately notify a; (1) supervisor, (2) evacuate all occupants and immediate neighbors, (3) secure the scene and (4) contact Fire Department personnel. Once Fire Department personnel determine the scene is in fact an illegal drug laboratory, in accordance with our mutual aid agreement, the on-duty supervisor shall notify the patrol lieutenant and Command Staff. If the need is appropriate, the on-duty supervisor shall contact the social media team and Department PIO for any relevant information dissemination related to community safety issues. The supervisor shall then contact the Riverside County Sheriff Department Special Investigations Bureau (SIB - East) whom is qualified and capable of conducting drug manufacturing laboratory investigations.

If there is an arrest related to such incident, responding personnel shall coordinate with and assist RSO SIB on how they would like to proceed with the investigation and (1) arrest interviews, (2) booking and (3) criminal complaint filing.

Some of the precursors associated with a drug manufacturing laboratory officers should be familiar with but not limited to are;

- (a) Common cold pills containing ephedrine and or pseudo ephedrine (excessive quantities usually collected using "smurfing method")
- (b) Atmospheric vacuum beakers
- (c) Fractional distillation setups
- (d) Glass flask sets

Indio Police Department

Indio PD Policy Manual

Hazardous Material Response

- (e) Acetone
- (f) Alcohol
- (g) Toluene
- (h) Engine starter
- (i) Drain Cleaner
- (j) Coffee Filters
- (k) Iodine
- (l) Salt
- (m) Batteries
- (n) Propane Tanks
- (o) Lye
- (p) Matches and or lighters
- (q) Muriatic Acid
- (r) Pyrex Dishes
- (s) Butane
- (t) Mini-thins
- (u) Sulphuric Acid
- (v) Red phosphorous

413.3 REPORTING EXPOSURE(S)

State **MODIFIED**

Department personnel who believe that they have been exposed to a hazardous material shall immediately report the exposure to a supervisor. Each exposure shall be documented by the employee in an employee memorandum that shall be forwarded via chain of command to the Commanding Officer. Should the affected employee be unable to document the exposure for any reason, it shall be the responsibility of the notified supervisor to complete the memorandum.

Injury or illness caused or believed to be caused from exposure to hazardous materials shall be reported the same as any other on-duty injury or illness in addition to a crime report or incident report.

413.3.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

State

When a supervisor has been informed that an employee has been exposed to a hazardous material, he/she shall ensure that immediate medical treatment is obtained and appropriate action is taken to lessen the exposure.

Indio Police Department

Indio PD Policy Manual

Hazardous Material Response

To ensure the safety of employees, safety equipment is available through supervisory personnel. Safety items not maintained by the Department will be obtained through the Fire Department.