

Hazardous Material, Trauma Scene Waste and Spilled Loads Response

406.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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.

406.1.1 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DEFINED

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.

Public property is defined as City-owned property; private property is defined as all other property.

406.2 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

Employees may encounter situations involving suspected hazardous materials, such as at the scene of a traffic accident, chemical spill or fire. When employees come into contact with a suspected hazardous material, certain steps should be taken to protect themselves and citizens.

Pursuant to City Manager Police CM03-01, Redding Fire Department personnel shall serve as the Incident Commander for any hazardous material incidents. The on-duty Police Department watch commander, or supervisor in their absence, shall respond to all cases of reported hazardous material incidents and coordinate the police response to those incidents. The Police Department in conjunction with the Streets Division shall be responsible for traffic and crowd control.

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).

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Pursuant to the City Manager Policy, if the hazardous material has been identified and is non-threatening, the Incident Commander may delegate responsibility to the applicable City department for incident management until the incident is resolved. The Fire Department maintains a list of available hazardous material cleanup companies to respond to assist with cleanup.

406.3 REPORTING EXPOSURE(S)

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 a city incident report that shall be forwarded via the chain of command to the Division Commander. 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.

406.3.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

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. The supervisor should fill out a City of Redding Incident Report to document the exposure.

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.

406.4 TRAUMA SCENE WASTE

Trauma scene waste is defined in Section 5193, Title 8, California Code of Regulations, as human blood, body fluids, or other residues from the scene of a serious human injury, illness, or death.

Trauma scene wastes are often present at the scene of crimes, accidents, natural illnesses, and death. The procedures for cleanup, transportation, and disposal of these wastes are regulated by the California Department of Health Services, Medical Waste Management Program.

Trauma scene waste is required to be removed by a trauma scene waste management practitioner on public property. Private property is at the discretion of the property owner.

Personnel locating or working at a scene where trauma scene waste is present shall attempt to avoid coming into contact with the material to prevent exposure and attempt to secure the area to prevent spreading the waste material.

Identification Technicians (ID Techs) who encounter a minor amount of blood, body fluids or other residues on public property may elect to clean up the minor amount of trauma scene waste. Any trauma scene waste shall be placed in a red biohazard bag and disposed of in an approved biohazard box located in the ID room.

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Employees that encounter large spills or major incidents such as fatal traffic collisions or homicides on public property shall notify the on-duty supervisor who will coordinate through SHASCOM for a call out of a trauma scene waste management practitioner. The trauma scene waste management practitioner is responsible for cleanup, transportation, and disposal of the material located on public property.

Employees who encounter large spills or major incidents such as homicide or other incidents on private property shall notify the owner of the property of their responsibility to have the trauma scene waste removed by an approved trauma scene waste management practitioner. The owner of the private property is responsible for the cleanup, transportation, and disposal of the material.

Personnel who encounter trauma scene waste on either public or private property shall also notify the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Division at (530) 225-5787. After 1700 hours, supervisors shall have SHASCOM contact a member of the Environmental Health Division using their resource file and advise them of the situation. Environmental Health Division is responsible to follow-up and ensure the appropriate measures have been taken to clean-up the trauma scene waste.

When trauma scene waste is located on private property and the owner cannot be located, personnel are required to notify the Environmental Health Division and advise them of the location and amount of material prior to clearing the scene.

406.5 SPILLED LOADS

Personnel who respond to or encounter spilled loads on roadways shall take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the public.

If the load is determined to be hazardous the above-listed protocols will be followed.

If the load is determined to be non-threatening, the appropriate agency with responsibility for the roadway (Cal Trans or City of Redding Streets Division) shall be notified to assist with traffic control if the roadway is to be closed for an extended length of time. The on-duty supervisor will assess the situation and be responsible for calling out the appropriate resources to handle the incident.

Due to environmental and medical regulations, personnel shall not call out the Fire Department to provide a "wash down" for the purposes of cleaning up any hazardous materials, trauma scene waste or spilled loads. If the Redding Fire Department has already arrived on scene and is providing assistance, and the amount of material is determined to be minor in nature, they may decide on a case-by-case basis, to provide assistance with "wash downs".