

2020 SAN DIEGO COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AREA PLAN

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- B-** Spill Release Reporting –2020
<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Pages/Spill-Release-Reporting.aspx>
[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/deh/hmd/pdf/hm-9511%20\(02-11\)%20FORM.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/deh/hmd/pdf/hm-9511%20(02-11)%20FORM.pdf)
<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Documents/Release%20Reporting%20Matrix.pdf>
- C-** Business Plan Guidance – 2019
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/hazmat/hazmat.html>
- D-** First Responder Hazardous Materials Business Plan – link
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- E-** San Diego County CalARP Program (RMP Development) Guidelines – 2014
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- F-** Procedures for Use for the California Emergency Reserve Account – 2020
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- G-** Registered Hazardous Waste Transporters Database - link
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- H-** DEH- ER Assignment and Selection of After-Hours Staff - 2017
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- K-** NFPA 471, 472, 473, 1991, 1992, 1993, 2002 - link
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- L1-** L1- ATSDR - Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents Volumes I, II, III
- L2-** L2- Hazardous Materials Medical Management Protocols (2nd Edition)
- M-** Bi-National Hazardous Materials Prevention and Emergency Response Plan - 2009
- N-** Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan - 2014
- O-** San Diego Operational Area Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) - 2020
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Introduction

The San Diego County Operational Area Hazardous Materials Area Plan (HAZMAT Area Plan) describes the system currently being used within the County of San Diego for managing hazardous materials emergencies. The HAZMAT Area Plan has been prepared pursuant to Division 20 Chapter 6.95 (Section 25503) of the California Health and Safety Code and in accordance with Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations. All procedures described in this plan have been implemented to include Sections 2622-2648 CCR Title 19 and are noted on the Optional Model Reporting Form. The County of San Diego Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) is a division of the Department of Environmental Health (DEH). DEH is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) and Administering Agency responsible for the HAZMAT Area Plan and was assisted in its preparation by the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD).

The activities carried out by the HMD, Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team (HIRT), and the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services (OES) to effectively manage hazardous materials emergencies are coordinated, in part, through the HAZMAT Area Plan. This document also references information covering hazardous substance inventories and emergency response spill planning received from regulated businesses, community groups, State and Federal Agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard which also are integrated into this HAZMAT Area Plan and the Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Unified OES/COSD Op Area Emergency Ops Plan).

The HAZMAT Area Plan is designed to integrate the operational activities of San Diego County's Emergency Services Organization, Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) into the on-scene operational procedures for the local, State or Federal agency who have primary responsibility for a hazardous chemical emergency in the jurisdiction.

Certified Unified Program Agency CUPA

The County of San Diego Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) is a division of the Department of Environmental Health (DEH). DEH is the Certified Unified Program Agency (also called Administering Agency) for the California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Chapter 6.95, hazardous materials release response plans and inventory, and the California Code of Regulations, Title 19. As the division within DEH charged with implementing Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) programs, the HMD has overall responsibility for the Business Plan Program, the California Accidental Release Program (CalARP), and the federal Risk Management Plan (RMP), the Area Plan, and Community-Right-to-Know and Chemical Emergency Response Services. As the sole CUPA (effective July 1, 1996) in San Diego County, the DEH-HMD is the lead regulatory agency in the county for conducting inspection activities related to hazardous waste generators (HSC Chapters 6.5); hazardous, and acutely hazardous, materials users (HSC Chapter 6.95, Articles 1 & 2); underground storage of hazardous materials (HSC Chapter 6.7); medical waste generators (HSC Division 104, Part 14), and the storage of petroleum in aboveground tanks (Above Ground Petroleum Storage Act -APSA HSC Chapter 6.67).

In 1989, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance establishing a medical waste management program-the first program of its kind in California. Currently the HMD conducts inspections

of medical waste generators and requires certain generators to prepare a Medical Waste Management Plan.

The HMD also provides hazardous materials emergency response services in a coordinated effort with the SDFD. These activities are conducted countywide under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), of which, all cities in the County of San Diego are members.

[Hazardous Materials Business Plan \(HMBP\)](#)

As the [Certified Unified Program Agency \(CUPA\)](#) for the County of San Diego, the Department of Environmental Health's [Hazardous Materials Division \(HMD\)](#) conducts routine inspections at facilities that are subject to the HMBP requirements. The purpose of these inspections is:

- To ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations concerning HMBP requirements.
- To identify existing safety hazards that could cause or contribute to a release.
- To suggest preventive measures designed to minimize the risk of a spill or release of hazardous materials.

The HMBP contains detailed information on the storage of hazardous materials or hazardous wastes at regulated facilities. The purpose of the HMBP is to prevent or minimize damage to public health, safety, and the environment, from a release or threatened release of a hazardous material/wastes. The HMBP also provides emergency response personnel with adequate information to help them better prepare and respond to chemical-related incidents at regulated facilities.

Businesses that handle hazardous materials (including [hazardous waste](#)) or extremely hazardous substances at reportable quantities are required to prepare and electronically submit an HMBP in the California Environmental Reporting System CERS. The reportable quantities are equal to or greater than:

- 500 pounds of a solid 55 gallons of a liquid
- 200 cubic feet of a compressed gas
- A hazardous compressed gas in any amount (highly toxic with a [Threshold Limit Value](#) of ≤ 10 parts per million)
- Extremely hazardous substances above the threshold planning quantities (TPQs)

The entire Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) is required to be updated as changes occur pursuant to California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Chapter 6.95 section 25508.1. The HMBP consists of Facility Information, Hazardous Materials Inventory, Site Map, Emergency Contingency Plan and Training Plan.

The CUPA Program also incorporates the requirements of California Health and Safety Code, Section 25503(c). As part of the Program, staff regularly inspect permitted businesses and gather information regarding inventory, emergency response and employee training.

The HMD staffs a Plan Check Specialist to assist new businesses and businesses undergoing tenant improvements, in complying with their [Hazardous Materials Business Plan \(HMBP\)](#) requirements.

The HMD was created in 1981 to provide a regional program to regulate the use and disposal of hazardous materials and waste. The HMD has grown from a single-person unit in 1981 to a program which now has

approximately 50 professional staff. As of the fiscal year 2019-20, the HMD regulated approximately 15,009 facilities required to comply with one or more of six CUPA program elements.

Data Management System

As part of a County enterprise IT project, DEH-HMD has transitioned to a web-based data collection and permit management system, Accela Automation - an electronic document and data management system that uses a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) which interfaces with the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). This system collects, processes, and reports CUPA-required data and makes available the hazardous materials permit information online to the public and to stakeholders. Secure access to specific hazardous materials storage, handling and emergency response information is accessible to fire agencies and first responders through CERS.

The CERS has an Emergency Response Portal which allows quick access to First responders as required by Title 19, and Chap 6.95 of the HSC. HMD facilitates access to this portal for local first responding agencies.

To further manage additional data the HMD uses Accela - a relational database. Accela is used to manage permitting, inspection, compliance, and emergency response data submitted by businesses and collected during inspections of permitted businesses. Accela is also used to document emergency responses to hazardous incidents. Accela stores business-specific information, such as hazardous materials inventory, waste generation information, underground hazard materials storage and site maps. The system also stores emergency contact information, generates inspection records, notices of violation, billing and fees, and compiles information for various reports.

HMD maintains a hazardous materials GIS data set of all the HMD permitted facilities. This information is used to identify and triage hazardous materials facilities that may be affected during a localized disaster. In addition, the HIRT has plume modeling software (Aloha/Marplot/Cameo) for predicting offsite consequences during a hazardous materials release. Both modeling suites are user-friendly software packages for the PC which combine state-of-the-art hazard and consequence prediction, digital, and GIS information within easy-to-use graphical interface, and are available on all HIRT vehicles for use during chemical, biological or radiological emergencies or in the County of San Diego's Emergency Operations Center.

The CUPA Program known as CalARP requires the subject facility conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all the administrative and operational procedures associated with a process using any "regulated substances" within that facility. CalARP requires an owner or operator of a Program 2 or 3 stationary source to conduct a review of process hazards called the Hazard Review or Process Hazard Analysis (PHA). The Hazard Review or PHA includes an evaluation of external events, a seismic assessment of process components and a worst-case scenario offsite consequences model. Owners or operators identify the regulated substance and quantities on-site, document a five-year accident history, develop worst-case and most likely release models which could affect the community, and develop an accidental release prevention program and emergency response plan. RMPs are submitted to the CUPA where they are reviewed for completeness. Facilities subject to federal requirements must also submit their RMP to USEPA for review.

Currently, 54 stationary sources in the county have prepared Risk Management Plans which follow State and/or Federal requirements. Nine (9) of the stationary sources have multiple covered processes.

The facility screening method and other specific CalARP information are contained in the "County of San Diego, CalARP Guidelines" (Appendix E).

The San Diego Regional Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT)

In 1981 the Unified Disaster Council (UDC) approved the implementation of the HIRT. This team is funded by a Joint Powers Agreement with support from the incorporated cities, military bases, and Indian reservations. The UDC is the governing body of the program whose daily operation is administered by the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services (OES).

The DEH-HIRT consists of ten California State Certified Hazardous Material Specialists. This team services all unincorporated San Diego County areas, 18 municipalities, two military bases, and some Indian Reservations. DEH-HIRT responds jointly with the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department HIRT (SDFD-HIRT) to investigate and mitigate hazardous material, biological agent and radiological isotope releases that can impact human health and the environment. Emergency response activities include mitigation, containment and control actions, as well as hazard identification. HIRT is activated through the City of San Diego's Fire-Rescue Department Communications Center or contacted through County Operations (service provided by New Connections). HIRT can also be dispatched directly by telephone, cellular phone, 800MHZ radio channels and 911.

The Joint HIRT team provides advice and technical support to the first responder but does not assume scene management responsibilities. The first responder or appropriate agency maintains full control and Incident Command (IC) authority over the incident and retains responsibility for release of public information concerning the incident. Complete descriptions of background information, the purpose and objectives of HIRT, the legal authority, and the mutual aid agreements that allow its continued operation are discussed in the Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization HIRT Program description (Appendix Q).

The SDFD-HIRT is responsible for mitigating, containing and/or controlling the release, effecting rescues and other related tasks. The DEH-HIRT is responsible for assessing the risk to public health and safety and the environment, taking the necessary steps to mitigate these hazards, ensuring adequate cleanup of the area, and conducting necessary enforcement activities.

In the years 2015 thru 2019, the HIRT has responded to approximately 500 chemical emergencies and complaints annually. Below is a table of incident types by jurisdiction for 2019.

Incident Type By Jurisdiction for 2019															
City	Abandoned Waste	Asbestos	Bio-Agent or Bio-Haz / Infectious Waste	Chemical Suicide	Disposal to Unauthorized Point	Drug or Drug Lab Related	Fire with Chemical Involvement	HME or Hazardous Chemical Storage	Pesticide Related	Radiological Related	Reported Chemical Odor or Exposure	Reported Hazardous Condition	Spill Notification Only	Storage or Process Release (non-transportation)	Total
Carlsbad	1			3				1			6	1	1		13
Chula Vista	3	1			4			3	5		3	3	2		24
Coronado				1							2	3			6
Del Mar					1								2		3
El Cajon	9	3		1	3	5				3	7	5	4		40
Encinitas		2	1			1			1		3				8
Escondido	5					1		1	1		4	4	4		20
Imperial Beach	1		1					1			2		1		6
La Mesa		1		2					3		3		2		11
Lemon Grove		1			2				1						4
National City	1	1			1	1		1		1	4	1			11
Oceanside	2	1	1	1	1	3	1			2	3	2	3		20
Poway					1										1
San Diego	12	18	3	2	19	21	11	4	6	2	33	6	34	30	28
San Marcos	3					2	1			1	1	2		1	11
Santee				1		3			2			4	3	1	14
Solana Beach		2								1				1	4
Vista	2				4	2		1	1		1	1	3	1	2
Unincorporated															
Alpine	2					1								1	4
Bonita				1								2			3
Bonsall	1						1				1				3
Boulevard		1													1
Campo	1								2						3
Descanso											1				1
Fallbrook	2				2					1	1			3	9
Jacumba					1										1
Jamul	2				1	2						1			6
Julian											1			1	2
Lakeside	3				1		2				1	3	4		14
Pauma Valley						2									2
Rainbow														1	1
Ramona	1					2					3	2		2	10
San Clemente						1				1		1			3
Spring Valley	1				1	4	1			1		2			10
Tecate											1				1
Valley Center	4				2	1		1				1		3	12
Warner Springs						2									2
Camp Pendleton												1	1		2
Total	56	31	6	4	41	56	24	7	9	10	55	19	94	58	63

The Office of Emergency Services

The San Diego County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is the primary emergency planning agency for San Diego County. OES prepares and maintains each of the county's comprehensive emergency plans. OES oversees and maintains the County of San Diego's Operational Area Emergency Plan which is included in

and referenced to this plan. In addition, OES serves as staff to the Unified Disaster Council, the governing body of the Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization.

The OES functions in an administrative capacity to the HIRT program, maintaining the provider contracts, coordinating committees, and implementing cost recovery activities. Complete descriptions including background information, the purpose and objectives of HIRT, the legal authority, and the mutual aid agreements that allow its continued operation are discussed in the Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization HIRT Program description (Appendix Q).

Transportation of Hazardous Substances/Border Inspection

In fiscal year 2015-2016 DEH used grant monies to conduct a transportation commodities flow study under the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant (Appendix S). Hazardous Major transportation corridors in San Diego County are as follows:

- Interstates 5, 15, and 805 and State Routes 67, 125 and 163 run roughly north/south.
- Interstate 8, and State Routes 52, 54, 56, 76, 78, 94 and 905 run east/west.

There is one major north-south rail line and one minor east-west rail line in the county used to transport hazardous commodities. Rail transportation information from 2019 was recently added to the 2015-16 Commodity Flow Study along with additional technical reference resources. The HIRT uses a secured-access smart phone application (app) called Ask Rails® which provides real-time online access to rail cargo/contents information. The information on the app includes specific chemical data and quantities stored inside each rail car. A responder can get more information and request to gain access here: <http://askrail.us/>

There are two major pipelines running mainly north-south through the County transporting hazardous materials. HIRT uses the Pipeline Integrated Management Mapping Application from the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration website <Http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov> to coordinate a response if a pipeline release is suspected or if a large release might impact a pipeline.

San Diego County has a long U.S./Mexico international border. There are five ports of entry between the United States and Mexico: Commercial crossings at Otay/San Diego and Tecate, non-commercial crossings at Tecate and San Diego, and one combined port in San Diego Bay. Ensenada, Mexico lies within 60 miles of the border and includes one marine port of entry. There is a potential for accidents involving both hazardous materials going into Mexico and hazardous wastes returning from Mexico. There is also an accident potential for hazardous materials and wastes in transit being shipped by maquiladoras to other foreign countries through San Diego County, such as Canada and Japan.

Through an agreement with the CalEPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the DEH HMD conducts international border inspections of hazardous cargo. The goal of the HMD border inspection program is to investigate and monitor the import and export of hazardous waste shipments between California and Mexico. Then, using inspection information, a determination is made if these shipments conform to applicable laws and regulations. The HMD coordinates with USEPA, CalEPA, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, CalEPA DTSC Border Inspection Program, California Highway Patrol and other agencies on issues related to hazardous waste transportation across the international border. HMD border

inspection activities include inspection of cargo and shipping containers, examination of shipping papers and hazardous waste manifests, certificates of compliance, collection of samples, and the photographing of suspicious containers and shipments. Useful technical reference resources during the inspection include state and federal laws and regulations, a checklist, and the Emergency Response Guidebook located here: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/ERG2016.pdf> These activities are conducted as a coordinated effort with US Customs at the Border Crossing Ports, most frequently the Otay Mesa Port of Entry.

Hazardous Substances Emergency Response Plans

[Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization HIRT Program](#)

This plan provides background information on the formation of the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team, delineates the organizational structure, and defines membership (Appendix Q).

[San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines](#)

The HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O) provide detailed technical information for implementation during a hazardous substance emergency response. It includes information on site entry, site control and decontamination, disposal of contaminated materials, and the job functions of the participating responders on-scene.

[Pesticide Drift Plan](#)

The County of San Diego Agricultural Commissioner's Office (CAC) is responsible for developing response protocols for a pesticide drift exposure incident. Pesticide drift is the movement of a pesticide through the air away from the intended target at the time of application. A pesticide drift exposure incident is a drift incident resulting in exposure to pesticides that pose the possibility of creating acute health effects and/or result in environmental contamination.

The County of San Diego Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the Department of Environmental Health, HAZMAT Division, and the Joint HIRT Team work together in reporting and responding to pesticide drift incidents. The County Agriculture Commissioner will assist other agencies and the public as needed by employing various means (including the use of Reverse 9-1-1) to notify parties impacted by a pesticide drift incident. (Appendix T)

[NFPA 471 –Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents](#)

NFPA 471 *Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents* applies to all organizations that have responsibilities when responding to hazardous materials incidents and recommends standard operating guidelines for response. It specifically covers planning procedures, policies, and application of procedures for incident levels, personal protective equipment, decontamination, safety, and communications. The NFPA 472 standard covers competencies for both Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Materials Operations level employees. (Appendix K).

[LEPC Region VI Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan \(Regional Response Plan\)](#)

The California Emergency Management agency, LEPC Region VI Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan is tasked with coordinating resources and facilitating an open dialog in the event mutual aid support for hazardous materials incidents within the Region VI counties of Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego are needed. This plan provides effective coordination and thereby facilitates

response capability for serious hazardous materials incidents when one or more jurisdictions in Region VI become involved in a situation which overwhelms the county resources (Appendix R).

Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization Area Hazardous Materials Plan: Oil Spill Contingencies Element

The San Diego Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan, written by the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in San Diego, functions to provide a coordinated and integrated response by the Coast Guard On-Scene Coordinator and other Federal, State and civilian forces to pollution incidents. It outlines the duties and responsibilities of the on-scene forces and provides for standardization of procedures and policy among them. This plan contains a Geographic Directory of potential incident sources, areas to be protected and an Assistance Directory itemizing sources of services and supplies for spill response.

A Regional Plan, developed by the Office of Emergency Services, integrates emergency operations for various coastal cities and other responsible agencies in San Diego into the U.S. Coast Guard's Plan (Appendix A).

San Diego County is also protected on a Federal level in the event of an oil spill along our coastline. The USEPA's Oil Spill Contingency Plan applies to all Federal agencies. It is in effect for discharges or substantial threats of discharges of oil to or upon the navigable waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines.

Emergency Response Procedures

(Procedures and Protocols for Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Personnel)

The following sections detail the activities of the HIRT Program.

Guidelines for Approach, Recognition and Evaluation of Releases of Hazardous Substances

In San Diego County responses to incidents involving hazardous materials, radiological, and biological hazards are handled by the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT). The HIRT is comprised of responders from both DEH-HIRT and the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD). This joint team, collectively known as HIRT, services all unincorporated San Diego County areas, 18 municipalities, two military bases, and five Indian Reservations. There are on average 500 responses a year in the HIRT operational area. Combined, DEH and SDFD has more than 110 Hazardous Materials Technicians and Specialists (HMS) certified by the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI). SDFD maintains Hazmat Team Typing by CalOES as two (2) CalOES Type I Hazmat Teams, and one (1) CalOES Type II Hazmat Teams. In addition, DEH-HIRT has three (3) HAZMAT Units that are equivalent to the CalOES Type III standard.

The SDFD team's HAZMAT Units include a mobile mini-laboratory for analyzing materials on scene. The HIRT also uses state of the art detection and chemical analysis equipment to aid in identifying unknown hazardous and non-hazardous substances. In addition to dealing with "routine" hazardous materials emergency incidents, the HIRT members are trained in the identification and mitigation of hazardous materials associated with CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). All HAZMAT response units are equipped with the most current protective clothing (Level A, B, C, Turnouts, and NFPA 1984, 1991, 1992, and 1994 Standards). SDFD responders are also trained as Firefighters, Medics/Paramedics, and Heavy Rescue.

HMS training to the CSTI standard addresses all components for approach, recognition (size-up), evaluation mitigation, containment and control actions as well as hazard identification, evaluating the threat to the local populations and the environment and re-occupancy of evacuated public areas. HIRT is

also responsible for handling all after normal business hours complaints for the Department of Environmental Health. Incidents operations are managed under the Incident Command System (ICS).

Incident Planning is conducted using a standardized process:

S	Safety
I	Isolate & Deny Entry
N	Notifications & Release Reporting
C	Command
I	Hazard Assessment and Identification
A	Action Plan & Site Safety Plan
P	PPE
C	Containment and Control
P	Protective Actions
D	Decontamination
D	Disposal
D	Documentation

Identification of the type of hazardous substance released is one of the prime functions of the HIRT Program. Health risk evaluations are typically conducted by DEH-HIRT personnel. All DEH-HIRT responders are trained and certified as: CSTI Hazardous Materials Technician, or Specialist, Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), ICC UST Inspectors, APSA Inspectors, CUPA Inspectors, Hazmat FRO, Hazmat IC, Assistant Site Safety Officer, DOT Transportation, and several other courses. The Hazard Specific and Incident Specific procedures and protocols for approach, recognition and evaluation of releases are contained in the San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O).

An all hazards approach is taken for recognition, identification, and mitigation of hazardous substances. These guidelines are based on standard EPA Site Survey and Reconnaissance Protocols, and policies and procedures established in Code of Federal Regulation 29 CFR 1910.120 and California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5192. The Director of DEH is responsible for all the long-range logistics planning and policy decisions of all disasters involving hazardous substance releases. The Director is also responsible for identifying environmental health problems and determining the resources needed and coordinating resource allocation.

The Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) which includes Emergency Medical Services, Bioterrorism and Public Health, is responsible for coordinating medical care for impacted members of the public during hazardous materials emergencies.

References

HIRT Incident Reports and Site Safety Plan (Appendix I)

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Annex A - Emergency Management

Annex D - Multi-Casualty Plan

Annex E - Public Health Operations

Annex H - Environmental Health Operations

San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O)

Chapter 4 - Hazard Specific Operations

Chapter 5- Incident Specific Operations

EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response Standard Operating Safety Guides (Appendix P)

Chapter 4 - Site Control

Monitoring and Decontamination Guidelines for Personnel and Equipment

Guidelines and standard operating procedures used by HIRT are contained in San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) (Appendix O). These guidelines are based on EPA standardized procedures outlined in the Standard Operating Safety Guidelines (Appendix P) supplied by the EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response. Guidelines are established in NFPA 471 -Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents and NFPA 472 -Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents. The California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) Hazardous Materials Technician and Specialist curriculum are also used and referenced.

Monitoring Equipment Use (Appendix O) contains a list of detection equipment and related quick sheets for equipment operation/calibration/maintained based on manufacturer recommendations. All HIRT staff are trained the CSTI Technician or Specialist level for concept of operation and use of monitoring equipment. Decontamination (Technical, Emergency, and Mass) guidelines have also been developed by the HIRT which are also documented in Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O). HIRT responders undergo 24-hour annual refresher training to maintain proficiency in all applicable response procedures.

Decontamination (“decon”) is the process of removing or neutralizing contaminants that have accumulated on personnel and equipment. The process is critical to worker health and safety at hazardous waste sites. Decon procedures protect workers from hazardous substances that may contaminate and eventually permeate protective clothing, respiratory equipment, tools, vehicles, and other equipment used on site. The procedures accomplish the following objectives:

- Protect site personnel by reducing the transfer of harmful materials into clean areas
- Helps prevent mixing of incompatible chemicals
- Prevents uncontrolled transport of contaminants from the site

Mass Decontamination- The County of San Diego has three Mass Decontamination Units (MDUs) deployed to different Fire Agencies throughout the County. Standard Operating guidelines have been developed to provide guidance to First Responders and the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) concerning the response, management, coordination, and operation of a mass Decontamination center.

The Decontamination center will be setup using the equipment from one or more of the San Diego County Regional Mass Decontamination Units (MDU's). Operation of a Mass Decontamination Center will require support from the jurisdiction's emergency services; Fire, Law Enforcement, the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT), COSD Health and Human Services (HHSA), Public Works, and other agencies.

Decontamination and Mass Decontamination Goals:

- Achieve an improvement in patients' acute health outcomes by reducing short-term morbidity and mortality.
- Achieve an improvement in patients' long-term health outcomes by preventing delayed morbidity.
- Protect the health and functioning of the health care system by preventing secondary contamination of responders, receivers, and infrastructure.
- Assure the best health outcome for the most patients.

Types of Decontamination:

- Patient Decontamination - Any process, method, or action that leads to a reduction, removal, neutralization or inactivation of contamination on or in the patient in order to:
 - Prevent or mitigate immediate and delayed adverse health effects.
 - Reduce the potential for secondary contamination to others, homes, vehicles, etc.
- Emergency Decontamination - Is the process of rapid decontamination using copious amounts of water, at low pressure. Emergency decontamination may be necessary for victims of chemical contamination, causing immediate signs and symptoms of exposure, or for victims with chemical, biological, or radiological contamination that require immediate medical aid/transport. In either case, emergency decontamination should be initiated by the first responder if there is not enough time to wait for a planned decontamination corridor to be setup.
- Planned Decontamination - Is the process of setting up a planned decontamination corridor using equipment from one or more of the regional MDU's. Time to set up planned decontamination corridor will take 60-120 minutes based on response time and scope of the decontamination setup. Planned decontamination may be used for victims of biological or radiological contamination. Victims of biological or radiological do not require emergency decontamination. Victims should be gathered in an established Safe Refuge Area, monitored by EMS, while waiting for the planned decontamination corridor to be setup.
- Dry Decontamination - May be used when a full shower with soap and water is not necessary. The removal of clothing may be optional depending on the contamination. Have persons wash exposed skin with wipes approved for skin contact, or with soap and water. Transport patients as required for observation and interview.
- Respiratory Decontamination - is provided to persons 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 emergent basis for victims displaying related symptoms. Respiratory decontamination involves removing the victims from the hazardous environment and relocating them to a clean and safe location. Respiratory decontamination 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.

References

Unified San Diego County Emergency Sources Organization Operational Area Emergency Plan (Appendix N)

Annex H - Environmental Health Operations

San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O)

Chapter 3 - Decontamination

EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response Standard Operating Safety Guides (Appendix P)

Chapter 4 - Site Control

Chapter 6 - Air Monitoring

Chapter 9 - Decontamination

National Fire Protection Agency 471, 2002 - Recommended Practice for responding to Hazardous materials Incidents (Appendix K)

Chapter 4 - Site Safety

Chapter 9 - Decontamination

National Fire Protection Agency 472, 2013 - Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents (Appendix K)

Chapter 7 - Competencies for the Hazardous Materials Technician

California Specialized Training Institute Hazmat Technician and Specialist Curriculum (Reference Only)

State of California, California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), CSTI, September 2019

TITLE 19. PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION 2. OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, CHAPTER 2. EMERGENCIES AND MAJOR DISASTERS SUBCHAPTER 2. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

Pre-Emergency Planning

Provisions for Pre-Incident Surveys of Business Sites

The HMD is a Division within the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health. DEH is the designated (CUPA) for all of San Diego County. HMD conducts inspections that include all of the CUPA program elements including hazardous waste generators, hazardous waste treatment, hazardous materials disclosure, CalARP, Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA), and underground storage tanks. In addition, HMD is the Local Enforcement Agency for the Medical Waste Management Act. A portion of the CUPA inspection involves assisting businesses in completing or the review of a hazardous materials business plan. Currently, HMD permits over 15,000 businesses that are required to prepare some type of emergency contingency plan.

Information submitted by business, is reviewed, and approved by CUPA inspectors during inspection activities. HMBP data is captured in two data management systems; California Environmental Reporting System (CERS), and Accela the Business Case Management System used by the HMD. Designated emergency response personnel from HIRT, or local Fire Districts can access CERS or Accela-based information. CERS provides an Emergency Response Portal specifically for First Responders. The portal

provides: inventories of hazardous materials/wastes, emergency contacts, summary reports, and site maps.

The HMD promotes the CERS ER portal access to first responders within the San Diego County region. This is routinely done through zone training provided by the HIRT. During these trainings the HIRT will demonstrate the CERS ER portal to first responders and promote agency and responder access and participation. See Appendix D First Responder Hazardous Materials Business Plan FRHMBP for additional information.

The business-specific information collected is additionally used to identify the locations of facilities that handle regulated substances and to identify facilities that may qualify for the California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program. Those businesses that qualify will be required to prepare a Risk Management Plan (RMP). Through inventory evaluations and surveys HMD has identified all of the facilities handling "regulated substances" in amounts at or exceeding "threshold quantities" in San Diego County. The most common regulated substances in the region include chlorine, anhydrous ammonia and aqueous ammonia which together comprise 49 of the 54 CalARP facilities. Periodically, HIRT conducts drills, exercises, and tours of higher hazard sites such as CalARP facilities. Critical information for mitigation of releases is captured during tours and is documented for response purposes.

Identification of geographically sensitive areas is included in the San Diego Oil Spill Prevention Plan (Appendix A). The HIRT has a portable wide area wireless detection system MSA Safesite which can be deployed at any incident. The HIRT has conducted pre-emergency planning to include functional operation of this network at most major public venues in the region.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Annex E - Public Health

Annex H - Environmental Health Operations

San Diego County DEH, HMD Information & Guidance (Appendices C, D, and E)

Hazardous Materials Business Plan Guidance/CERS (Appendix C)

First Responder Hazardous Materials Business Plans (Appendix D)

California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program Guidelines (Appendix E)

DTSC Hazardous Waste Transporters Database (Appendix G)

Provision for Pre-Emergency Coordination within Jurisdiction and Mutual Aid with Neighboring Jurisdictions

Provisions have been made for Pre-Emergency Coordination (both Intra- and Inter- Jurisdictional). The primary means of this coordination is through the San Diego County Unified Disaster Council (UDC) which is chaired by the County Board of Supervisors and comprised of representatives from the county and each of the 18 incorporated cities located within the Operational Area of San Diego. Members of the UDC have signed a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) establishing mutual aid procedures. More specifically, the UDC has adopted the Unified San Diego County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Program which establishes the responsibilities of the HIRT and other member jurisdictions. As part of this program, the HIRT Policy Committee meets quarterly to ensure coordination and consistency among its members.

Native American tribes and Military Installations can also enter an agreement with the UDC for HIRT response. As of July 2020, MCAS, Miramar is a non-voting HIRT member.

The Region VI Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan is developed by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). The Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA, 1986) established Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) to develop local chemical emergency plans or regional plans. The purpose of the regional plan is to coordinate and provide an overview of coordinated regional mutual aid response which takes place during hazardous materials incidents that go beyond the capabilities of an operational (county) area. Local administering agencies (CUPA) develop area plans, which are then integrated to develop the regional chemical emergency plans. The area plans for Mono, Inyo, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial and San Diego counties and for the cities of Banning, Corona, and Riverside are referenced in the Region VI Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (Appendix R).

The actual mutual aid responses during an emergency within California are handled through the state mutual aid system following the principals of the National Incident Management System. Whereas local resources are used first, then requests are placed through the Operational Area's Area Command authority to Fire or Law area coordinators, and then the Regional Emergency Operations Centers (staffed at the state level). LEPCs have no real functional role in mutual aid within California.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)
Annex A - Emergency Management

San Diego County Office of Emergency Services Fifth Amended Emergency Services Agreement Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization HIRT Program (including HIRT Joint Powers Agreement) (Appendix Q)

San Diego County Unified Disaster Council

Section I - Executive Summary

Section II - Background

Section III- Organization and Structure

Section IV -Membership Section V -Budget and Finance Section VI -Program Future

Local Emergency Response Planning Commission (LEPC) Region VI Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan (Appendix R)

Procedures to Access Local, State and Federal Funding Assistance

Funding for the operation of the San Diego County HIRT Program is made available through the member contributions from the 18 jurisdictions to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and several adjunct participants, including the U.S. Marine Corp and several Indian Reservations in the region. The JPA Program funds all HIRT operations, personnel training, and equipment costs.

Emergency cleanup costs are paid for through a tiered approach. First, whenever possible, cleanup costs are paid for by the person, company or agency responsible (Responsible Party) for the release or by the person who owns the property where the release has occurred. This may be a private or public party.

Second, when a responsible party is not available and the cleanup cost is beyond the financial capabilities of the city or county in which the spill has occurred, State funding is sought through the State of California Emergency Reserve Account for Hazardous Materials Incidents (California Superfund) administered by CalEPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control. Costs may also be drawn from specific State funds that are available including the Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Program (State Controller), the Fish and Wildlife Cleanup and Abatement Account (Department of Fish and Wildlife) and the Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CalEPA, State Water Resources Control Board). There are also several State agency-specific funding sources for addressing hazardous materials incidents that impact the mandate of the programs that can provide funds. Some of these agencies are Cal Trans (the California Transportation Emergency Reserve Account – Appendix F), the Division of Oil and Gas (Department of Conservation), the State Lands Commission and the California National Guard.

Third, generally if the cost of the cleanup is anticipated to be more than \$25,000, Federal funding for cleanup is sought. The Federal government administers two primary funds to abate and mitigate a hazardous materials incident. They are the Clean Water Act Federal Pollution Fund (U.S. Coast Guard - Federal On-Scene Coordinator) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) Hazardous Substances Response Trust Fund (Federal Superfund) (Environmental Protection Agency - Federal On-Scene Coordinator). The EPA Duty Officer is contacted for assistance with these type of incidents in San Diego County.

References

[Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan \(Appendix N\)](#)

[San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines \(Appendix O\)](#)
Section 2 - Incident Documentation

[Procedures for using the Department of Toxic Substance Control “Clan Lab” and “Off Highway Removal” Emergency Reserve Accounts: \(Appendix F\)](#)

Provisions to Access State Approved/Permitted Disposal Facilities

On call HIRT staff maintain a resource list of companies that have recently responded in the County of San Diego for various types of cleanups and testing, however the HMD no longer maintains an up-to-date listing of emergency response contractors that are available to work within San Diego County. This list changes so often that a fair and complete list is not possible. Several of the contractors are available 24 hours per day to provide resources for handling emergencies involving hazardous substances, and facilities for safely and legally storing hazardous waste if the ultimate treatment or disposal facility is currently unavailable. The current legal status of treatment and disposal facilities is available through the Southern California Office of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), located in Glendale, or the DTSC Headquarters in Sacramento. Recommendations are made to responsible parties to contact DTSC for a current list of registered hazardous waste contractors or to use the phone book. Additionally, DEH-HIRT staff recommend that responsible parties obtain multiple bids if time permits before starting work. HIRT staff are pre-authorized to call for a certified hazardous waste cleanup company whenever the situation requires it.

Emergency Response Contractors

The DEH maintains two contracts to access Registered Hazardous Waste Haulers. One contract provides for routine disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), for residence in the unincorporated areas of

the County. This contract service provides for the operation of a permanent HHW drop off facility in Ramona, CA., and provides for door-to-door pickup service by appointment. The HHW contract can be adapted to assist with the pickup and disposal of HHW post disaster, such as post wildfire recovery. Incorporated cities within the County are required to maintain like services for residents within their jurisdiction.

Emergency Response- The DEH maintains a standby by contract for the pickup and disposal of abandoned hazardous waste throughout the County. This contract/service can be accessed by HIRT members 24/7. The contract provides for the pickup of hazardous waste, universal waste, and biohazardous waste disposal by a registered hazardous waste hauler, for transport under a uniform hazardous waste manifest to a permitted treatment, storage, or disposal facility.

References

[Procedures for the Use of California Emergency Reserve Account \(Appendix F\)](#)

[Registered Hazardous Waste Transporters Database \(Appendix G\)](#)

[Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan \(Appendix N\)](#)

Annex E - Public Health Operations

Annex H - Environmental Health Operations

[San Diego Operational Area Hazardous Incident Response Team \(HIRT\) Standard Operating Guidelines \(SOG\) – 2020 \(Appendix O\)](#)

Development of an Integrated Response Management System Providing Standard Structure and Procedures

The system and authorization for handling hazardous materials incidents within San Diego County is covered in detail in the Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, the HIRT JPA Program and the San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines. All response agencies in the county use the Incident Command System (ICS), Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS), or the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for command and control, and work within the scope of the contingency plan while maintaining their own on-scene procedures. A single Incident Commander (IC) or scene manager is responsible for each incident and often a unified command system is practiced. In all cases, overall scene management is the responsibility of the established IC for the jurisdiction where the incident occurs. A responsibility matrix can be found in the Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization HIRT Program description. HIRT provides its service while operating as a specialized strike team under the Operations Section of the ICS system.

When required, the IC duties for the jurisdiction (clearly stated in the Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan) include setting up a unified command post, initiating communications and notification, and coordinating response and mitigation with all on-scene agencies until a normal, safe condition is restored. HIRT responsibilities in all jurisdictions include mitigation, containment and control, conducting hazard and risk assessments, determining the adequacy of the cleanup and enforcement. Cost recovery, access to State and Federal assistance and post-incident procedures are included in the HIRT JPA service delivery.

HIRT has a responsibility to provide and consult on response training within the Operational Area and is the best source of information for alternate cleanup and disposal agencies.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Basic Plan -Pages 11- 13

Annex A -Emergency Management

San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O)

HIRT Policies and Procedures Manual

Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization HIRT Program (Appendix Q)

Notification and Coordination

Provisions for Notification

Notification of the first responders, as well as other support, State and Federal agencies, is the responsibility of the 24-hour first responder dispatch centers typically in the jurisdiction where the hazardous materials emergency occurs. These 9-1-1 centers are currently linked together to facilitate a quick and coordinated response to an incident.

To activate the HIRT, dial "9-1-1", request hazardous materials assistance and the dispatcher will notify the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Dispatch Center, who will in turn activate the appropriate HIRT unit. This procedure is duplicated county-wide. As required in the HIRT Program JPA, both the Fire and Environmental Health components of the HIRT are activated by San Diego Fire Dispatch for response to any location within the 4250 square mile operational area. As an alternative, San Diego County departments can be notified by New Connections, a 24/7 answering serves located out of the region. New connections can be called to activate the County HIRT units. County HIRT will ensure that San Diego Fire-Rescue Department - HIRT units are dispatched. There is a 24-hour release reporting line staffed by DEH-HIRT. During the after-hours this line uses a voicemail to e-mail system directly to the 24-hour HIRT on call phones. Reporting parties can access the CUPA by calling 858-505-6657 day or night.

Provisions for initial and secondary notification to allied regulatory and support agencies are contained in the San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O). This includes the use of the CalOES Reporting System/State Warning Center and CUPA Notifications. The County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan includes Proclamation of Local Emergency

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Annex A -Emergency Management, Attachment 6 Warning System

San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O)

Public Notifications, and Communications

The County Office of Emergency Services offers several ways for the public to be notified and stay connected including the SD Emergency App, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and AlertSanDiego. <http://www.readysandiego.org/SDEmergencyApp/>

AlertSanDiego

The County of San Diego, in partnership with Blackboard Connect Inc., has instituted a regional notification system that will be able to send telephone notifications to residents and businesses within San Diego County impacted by, or in danger of being impacted by, an emergency or disaster. This system, called AlertSanDiego, will be used by emergency response personnel to notify those homes and businesses at risk with information regarding the event and/or on actions (such as evacuation) we are asking them to take. The system uses the region's 9-1-1 database, provided by the local telephone company(ies), and is therefore able to contact landline telephones whether listed or unlisted. Because the system uses the 9-1-1 database, only landline numbers are in the system. For Voice over IP (VoIP) or cellular telephone, or if a resident would like an email notification, the resident must register those telephone numbers and/or email address for use by the system. AlertSanDiego is TTY/TDD capable.

211 San Diego - www.211sandiego.org

211 San Diego is used to connect people with vital information about conditions and services such as road closures, evacuation routes, shelters and so much more. 2-1-1 provides a 24/7 hotline connected to a highly trained team providing the up-to-date information in an emergency.

Identification and Utilization of Alternate Emergency Communications

Alternate Emergency Communications systems are established in the Unified OES/COSD Op Area Emergency Ops Plan Appendix N - Annex I.

This Annex describes all the communications capabilities that exist in the Operational Area currently. Managing 24-hour interoperable communications is completed by jurisdictional and Regional Communications System (RCS) staff. Among these resources are the 800MHZ San Diego Operational Area Regional Communication System which is the primary communications network assigned to first responders (Sheriff, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and public works), as well as those belonging to other governmental agencies, including the Medical Examiner, Building Inspection, Environmental Health, and the Office of Emergency Services. Listed in the plan are radio networks that are part of the regional 800MHZ system for use during large incidents. Additional resources include Command Net, Tactical Net, Support Net, and Air to Ground Net and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) network of volunteer amateur radio operators. The basic plan also outlines the specific instances when the RACES network will be activated in accordance with the Hazard-Specific Annexes.

References

- Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)
- Basic Plan
- Annex I - Communications and Warning System

Responsibility Matrix/Listing of Emergency Responsibilities of Response Organizations

Responsibilities and functions of local, State, Federal and private response organizations can be found in the Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan and the San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Basic Plan Roles and Functional Responsibilities -Pages 14-19

Annex A -Emergency Management

San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O)

Section I -Response Criteria

Certified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization HIRT Program (Appendix Q)

Provisions for Notification to the State of California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) of Release or Threatened Release of Hazardous Substances

In California, any significant release or threatened release of a hazardous material requires immediate reporting by the responsible person to the CalOES State Warning Center (800) 852-7550, the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) and 9-1-1. HIRT staff are authorized to make these notifications on incidents where the responsible party is unknown, unwilling or unable.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and California law require responsible parties to report hazardous material releases if certain criteria is met.

CERCLA requires that all releases of hazardous substances (including radionuclides) exceeding reportable quantities be reported by the responsible party to the National Response Center (800) 424-8802. Additionally, CERCLA provides a reduced reporting requirement for continuous releases of hazardous substances that exceed the Reportable Quantity (RQ). Notification of continuous releases that equal or exceed the RQ need only be given once, with one follow-up report on the first anniversary of the initial report, following the continuous release reporting process. Thereafter only "statistically significant increases" need be reported. The purpose of the continuous release mechanism is to reduce unnecessary release notifications for releases of hazardous substances.

If an accidental chemical release exceeds the EPCRA applicable minimal reportable quantity, the facility must notify State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC) and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) for any area likely to be affected by the release and the National Response Center (800) 424-8802, and provide a detailed written follow-up as soon as practicable. Information about accidental chemical releases must be made available to the public.

Detailed guidance for reporting spills and release of hazardous materials including hazardous waste can be found in Appendix B (Spill and Release Reporting).

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) maintains a process to receive and respond to reported spills and releases of hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes. DEH staff who are responders for HIRT receive and respond to 911 notifications of releases, or spills. Routine notifications that do not rise to the level of a 911 response are directed to duty staff available 24/7 via the HMD complaint line 858-505-6657. This complaint line is answered during routine business hours. During non-business hours the system provides a voicemail to email immediate notification to duty staff.

References

California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.95, Title 19 CCR, and Government Code Section § 8574.8 (d)

State of California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

Appendix B- Spill and Release Reporting: San Diego County Release Guidance, Cal OES Release spill reporting Guidelines, Release Reporting Requirements Matrix

Training

Emergency Response Personnel Training

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) staff are trained to the Federally mandated OSHA training standards described in 29 CFR 1910.120, and the State of California Health & Safety Code levels under Title 8, Section 5192. Staff annually participate in refresher training with our HIRT team partners in the San Diego Region. In addition to these minimum requirements, emergency response personnel from the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health and the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department are trained to levels established by the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) through the Technician/Specialist curriculum (160/240 hours of training or more) under Title 19. All DEH-HIRT members are California Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS).

The Hazardous Materials Technician/Specialist level (160/240 hours of training or more), is established by the State Fire Marshall and CSTI. CSTI offers the Technician curriculum in four one-week modules. The Specialist curriculum is an additional two-week hands-on course. These courses comply with 29 CFR 1910.120, NFPA 472 and CGC 8574.12 and are listed in Title 19, Public Safety Division 2, Office of Emergency Services, Chapter 2 Emergencies and Major Disasters, Subchapter 2, Hazardous Substances Emergency Response Training.

In addition to State certification, HIRT staff participate in an ongoing program of training which includes topics/courses in chemical, radiological, biological hazards, transportation (rail and cargo tanker) response, compressed gas emergency management, advanced monitoring and detection equipment uses, environmental sampling, decontamination, and risk communication. Ongoing training is scheduled monthly for half days and quarterly for a full day. HIRT members also receive approximately 150 hours of supplemental training for skills development and improvement. State law mandates that training requirements be reviewed annually. The HIRT reviews its in-house training requirements annually as well. If changes are made, they are instituted the following year.

References

[Hazardous Materials Specialist Emergency Response Assignments and Selection of Department of Environmental Health After-Hours Staff \(Appendix H\)](#)

[San Diego County Department of Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Division Training Matrix \(Appendix J\)](#)

[San Diego Fire Department: Hazardous Materials Team Equipment/Manipulative Training Tracker Summary Report and San Diego County DEH Hazmat Training Tracker \(Appendix J\)](#)

California Specialized Training Institute Hazardous Materials Technician and Specialist Curriculum Guides (Reference Only) Title 19, Public Safety Division 2, Office of Emergency Services, Chapter 2 Emergencies and Major Disasters, Subchapter 2, Hazardous Substances Emergency Response Training

EPA Office of Emergency and remedial Response Standard Operating Safety guides (Appendix P)

National Fire Prevention Association 471, 2002 - Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents (Appendix K)

National Fire Prevention Association 472, 2008 - Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents

Procedures for Documenting Training

Training records are maintained for each staff member of HIRT and are the responsibility of the individual agency providing staff to the team. Examples of the initial and ongoing training established for HIRT staff are found in Appendix J. Formal training, such as CSTI certified classes, is documented in the form of certificates issued by CSTI for completion and competency. Annually, each team member receives a minimum of 24 hours of refresher training. Refresher training and ongoing training is documented by attendance, and through participation.

Reference

HIRT Training Matrix and Equipment/Manipulative Training Tracker Summary Reports (Appendix J)

Provisions for Field and Tabletop Exercises

HIRT routinely conducts monthly (half day) and quarterly (full day) drills to exercise skills and knowledge required of team members. Joint drills are made available to other response agencies that potentially could respond to the Operational Area of San Diego. Joint drills can include members of State and Federal Agencies, Federal fire departments, Civil Support Teams, and the local military bases where HIRT responds.

An extensive annual tabletop and full functional exercise program is conducted under the direction of the County Office of Emergency Services (OES). Such drills involve representatives from all the major public and private agencies who could be impacted by a large event disaster or terrorism related incident. At least one and often two major tabletop and/or functional drills are scheduled each year to exercise HIRT response capabilities. This includes exercising chemical and biological terrorism preparedness with members of the Metropolitan Medical Strike Team and disaster medical assistance teams in San Diego. LEPC drills and tabletops are also scheduled in the region to practice hazmat responses involving the San Diego/Mexico international border. The master ER Outlook calendar shows upcoming drills and exercises.

Public Safety and Information

Site Perimeter Security

The San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines, the EPA's Standard Operating Safety Guides and the Unified OES/COSD Op Area Emergency Ops Plan details site perimeter security measures.

Each plan designates local law enforcement agencies with the primary functions of public safety and evacuation, when necessary. CSTI's Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness or First Responder Operations level training provided to all first responders contains procedures for the safe approach to incident sites. The information gathered during the initial dispatch report provides a basis for the responders to plan a safe route to the scene and initiate protective actions to safeguard the public.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O)

California Specialized Training Institute: First Responder Awareness and Operations Curriculum (Reference Only) Title 19, Public Safety Division 2, Office of Emergency Services, Chapter 2, Emergencies and Major Disasters Subchapter 2, Hazardous Substances Emergency Response Training.

Safety Procedure Information: Provisions for Informing Employees and Public Regarding Safety Procedures during an Emergency

Site-specific safety issues are the responsibility of an emergency coordinator established for each business. Each facility must document their operational safety policies and procedures in a hazardous materials business plan, which is required of all facilities handling hazardous materials, or storing hazardous wastes, in excess of reportable quantities, as stated in Chapter 6.95 of the California Health and Safety Code. The completed hazardous materials business plan information is provided to all local emergency responders who could be impacted by a release. Additionally, the contact information for emergency coordinators for each permitted business is kept in a computerized database available to local fire agencies and available on HIRT response vehicles.

HIRT will conduct on-scene hazard appraisals, risk assessments and inform the Incident Commander (IC) of its findings. The on-scene IC is responsible through his/her designated Public Information Officer (PIO) to release the information to employees/public.

Public notification (during hazardous materials emergencies) is the responsibility of the on-scene IC and/or the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) depending on the area and number of people impacted by the emergency. The public also receives emergency information through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) which is available for use on a 24-hour basis. A program for regular testing and maintenance of the alert system is the responsibility of the OES. The San Diego County Sheriff Department's Dispatch center operates the Reverse 911® system which is designed to call people at home within potentially affected areas. Another resource for public information is 211 that has been used by OES in previous incidents.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O)

Business Plan Form (Appendix C)

EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial response Standard Operating Safety Guides (Appendix P)

Designation of Procedures for Information Release: Responsibility for Coordinated Release of Safety Information to the Public and Emergency Alert System (EAS)

Alerting the public to the potential hazards of an incident is the responsibility of the Incident Commander (IC). All media releases and flow of information from the scene are authorized by the IC to ensure the timely and accurate notification of the public.

As in all emergencies, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for the coordination and dissemination of emergency information through various operational area mechanisms. These are referenced in the San Diego County Emergency Plan:

- The County Emergency Public Information Media Team
- The Office of Emergency Services (OES) Public Information Officer
- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)
- The Joint Information Center (JIC)
- AlertSanDiego and Reverse 911®
- 211 San Diego

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Annex A – Managing emergencies

Annex I – Communication

Annex L – Emergency Public Information

Medical Notification: Provision of Informing Medical Facilities (24-Hour) of Nature of Incident and Substances Involved

The disaster management system for emergency medical services in San Diego County is well-established. This system addresses all the necessary functions of a coordinated multi-agency response to all medical multi-casualty incidents. The Medical Multi-Casualty Annex to the San Diego County Operational Emergency Plan is the unifying document for the emergency plans of local hospitals, cities, and emergency response agencies. The plan further defines specific tasks critical to the management of a hazardous materials incident under Medical Annex D-1 and D-2, Emergency Action Checklist Response to Hazardous Materials Incident. A notification flow chart in Medical Annex D and the 800 MHz EMS -Fleet Map outline how hazardous materials information would be disseminated by the response personnel at the scene to the EMS responding units and base hospitals on a 24-hour basis.

Development of training and exercises are done through the County's Emergency Medical Services Area Planning meetings. These meetings involve all medical response agencies and are dedicated to the development, implementation, and evaluation of realistic training exercises within the county.

In addition to the emergency medical response, the Public Health Operation Annex, Annex E, highlights essential public health activities that will be coordinated in Appendix E-2, Public Health Emergency Action Checklist Response to a Hazardous Materials Incident.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Annex D -Medical Multi-Casualty Plan

Evacuation Plans - Designation of Ordering Authority and Identification of Agency Evacuation Responsibilities

The Sheriff or local Police Department, assisted by other agencies including the County Office of Emergency Services (OES), are responsible for evacuations. The basic evacuation guidelines of the County of San Diego and individual City Emergency Plans apply. The decision to evacuate and the selection of evacuation distances will be the responsibility of the on-scene Incident Commander (IC) or his/her designee and may be based on the tables found in the 2016 DOT Emergency Response Guidebook or other guidelines* as appropriate.

Mass care facilities, shelters and individual agency responsibilities are covered in depth in Annex G of the Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Annex C -Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Operations: Evacuation Operations -Attachment D

Annex D - Multi-Casualty Plan Responsibility Chart

Annex G - Care and Shelter Operations

2016 Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook (Reference only)

*Conditions at the scene, professional judgment and computer models provided by the Department of Transportation, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration or other governmental agencies.

Coordination with the Red Cross

Coordination with the Red Cross at an incident, requiring care and shelter of evacuees, rests primarily with the on-scene Incident Commander (IC) and the coordinating Emergency Operation Center that may have been established to oversee a large incident within the affected jurisdiction. Shelters can also be initiated by the County's Duty Officer at the Office of Emergency Services (OES) or by the Director of Health and Human and Services Agency (HHSA). Procedures for alerting and notifying the Red Cross are incorporated in the Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (reference Annex I - Communications and Annex D - Multi-Casualty Plan). Additionally, the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), which assigns area care and shelter coordinators, also assists the Red Cross in providing mass care. Activation and tabletop exercises and functional drills are designed to test and improve the coordination between the Red Cross and agencies requesting assistance.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Annex D - Multi-casualty Plan

Annex I - Communications

Provisions for Transportation

Law enforcement and supporting organizations have the responsibility of evacuation, dispersal and/or relocation of persons from threatened or hazardous areas to a safe location during hazardous substance releases and other emergencies. Law enforcement may enlist the help of the HIRT team when performing the hazard assessments for a given situation prior to the final decision to evacuate or giving a shelter-in-place order to citizens. These decisions will follow provisions in each jurisdiction's emergency plans or the San Diego County plan to expedite the movement of persons from hazardous areas, control evacuation traffic, provide for the procurement, allocation and use of necessary transportation resources by means of mutual aid or other agreements with public or private transportation services.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

Annex C - Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Operations -Evacuation Operation Attachment D

Annex D - Multi-Casualty Plan Multi-County Responsibility Chart

Annex G - Care and Shelter Operations

Provisions for Mass Care and Sheltering

The Care and Shelter Operations, Annex (G) of the Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization and County of San Diego Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, describes the organizational and operational policies and procedures required to meet the needs of displaced persons from a hazardous materials release. It also cites authorities and specifies the public and private organization responsible for providing mass care and welfare inquiry services.

References

Unified OES/COSD Op Area Emergency Ops Plan (Appendix N)

Annex G - Care and Shelter Operations

Major Transportation Routes

Major transportation routes for passenger and bus transportation, light rail (trolley) and railroad are provided in Appendix S.

Security of Evacuated Areas

In the event of a hazardous materials release, it will be necessary to secure and restrict access to and from the hazardous area. As an integral part of the Incident Command System, law enforcement, within the responsible jurisdiction, will be assigned the task of access control. Four aspects of control must be considered which include:

1. Perimeter control and area security
2. Access control
3. Command Post coordination
4. Managing temporary evacuation points.

The policies and procedures required to carry out the security objectives at a hazardous materials scene are outlined in the San Diego County Emergency Services Organization Operational Area Emergency Plan, Annex C - Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Operations Attachment C - Access Control.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)
Annex C - Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Operations – Attachment C

San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines (Appendix O)

EPA Office of emergency and remedial Response Standard Operating Safety Guidelines (Appendix P)
Chapter 4 -Site Control

Designation of Agency Responsible for Equipment and Supplies

The HIRT maintains an equipment inventory sufficient to enable its staff to respond to the majority of chemical incidents occurring in San Diego County should their services be requested by a local fire agency or other first responders. The SDFD-HIRT consists of two OES Type 1 Hazardous Materials response vehicles outfitted with all mandated equipment. Also, there is response and safety equipment available on five response units and in the DEH-HIRT laboratory and garage. All equipment caches can be accessed 24 hours a day. The Department of Environmental Health (DEH), Hazardous Materials Division (HMD), has a full-time Environmental Health Technician assigned to HIRT equipment maintenance. HIRT equipment lists are updated on an annual basis. Currently, no major shortfalls in chemical response equipment have been identified for HIRT.

Public and private sector resources available for emergency response activities are identified in the Emergency Resources Directory of the Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization. The directory lists equipment type, owner (public/private) and location. It also details contact persons and phone numbers and the equipment availability on a 24-hour basis.

References

Unified OES/COSD Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (Appendix N)

San Diego County Emergency Resources Directory (Reference only - from the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services)

Provisions for Regular Testing and Maintenance of Equipment

The HIRT tests and maintains its emergency response equipment as required by the manufacturer. Each member agency is responsible for the maintenance and testing of its own equipment following schedules each agency adopts. Personal protective equipment is tested and maintained according to Cal-OSHA, NIOSH, EPA or NFPA standards. Analytical equipment is tested, calibrated, and serviced following manufacturers specifications using traceable/certified standards. Maintenance records are on file and maintained by each member agency. Standardized safety equipment and instruments are serviced and repaired by factory certified technicians. DEH maintains a full-time Environmental Health Technician assigned to HIRT equipment maintenance upkeep.

A list of equipment maintained by member agencies is available for review by a member agency; however, the inventory itself is considered For Official Use Only and will not be provided as part of this plan.

Provisions for Major Incident Response Critiques and Follow-Up

During an incident, the local fire department is responsible for Incident Command, scene management and scene-related issues except on Highways where it is Law Enforcement unless local agreements supersede. The Department of Environmental Health (DEH-HIRT) is primarily responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of public and environment, as well as enforcing environmental law. The role of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD-HIRT) is to primarily mitigate and control the hazardous substance in a cooperative manner with DEH-HIRT. The HIRT team members are also responsible for providing the opportunity to perform an incident critique and follow-up.

After all major incidents the HIRT team routinely asks the contracting agency if they would like to discuss and critique what the team did and how they performed. Organizational responsibilities and actions taken by the DEH-HIRT and the SDFD-HIRT Team elements of HIRT can be revised immediately based on this feedback.

Multi-jurisdictional evaluations are the prerogative of the jurisdiction in which the incident occurs. The HIRT Program encourages critiques, with the Unified Disaster Council (UDC) and/or HIRT Policy Committee meetings often serving as a forum for these critiques.

Violations of local and State law, which are noted during hazardous materials emergencies, can be referred to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for enforcement or appropriate follow-up action, if needed. Cost recovery actions are pursued by HIRT and/or other agencies, as appropriate, following provisions established by the HIRT Policy Committee or local municipal ordinances.

Modifications to the Area Plan will be made after a major incident has been critiqued or as more current information becomes available on an as-needed basis. Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.95, Section 25503, any time there is a substantial change to the Area Plan, the change shall be forwarded to the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) within 14 days after the changes have been made.

References

[Unified San Diego Emergency Services Organization HIRT Program \(Including HIRT Joint Powers Agreement\) \(Appendix Q\)](#)

[San Diego Operational Area HIRT Standard Operating Guidelines \(Appendix O\)](#)
Incident Critique Protocol (Chapter 2 -Incident Documentation)

CERTIFICATION

The CUPA has conducted a complete review of its area plan and has made any necessary revisions.

This document has been prepared in accordance with the following regulations and laws:

- California Office of Emergency Services, California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 4, Article 1 Definitions & Article 3 Minimum Standards for Area Plans.

- California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.95, Article 1, Sections 25500-25519.

Certification Statement for Hazardous Materials Area Plan:

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete.



Signature

Sandra J. Pence

Print Name

8/14/2020

Date

Chief

Print Title