

## CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Title:** *HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENT* **Procedure: 4.607**

**Date Issued:**

**Revised:**

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines for hazardous material control.

### **POLICY:**

Explosives, nonflammable and combustible liquids, gases, oxidizing materials, corrosive and disease causing agents that are stored or transported are a potential risk to both life and property. It is the goal of the Police Department to minimize the adverse effects of these hazardous materials upon the community.

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### ***RESPONSIBILITY***

1. The Fire Department will be responsible for the investigation, control, removal, and reporting of hazardous material incidents to the appropriate state and federal agencies.

2. The Police Department is responsible for the investigation and reporting of traffic accidents involving hazardous materials. The Police Department will provide other such assistance, to the Fire Department, as may be required to ensure the continuing safety and well being of the community.

#### ***HAZARDOUS MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION***

1. This is usually accomplished directly or indirectly by the descriptive data in shipping documents, container markings, package labels, and vehicle placards.

2. If this information is not readily obtainable due to an incapacitated driver or destruction of a bill of lading or other shipping papers, immediately contact the

Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTREC) 800-424-9300.

CHEMTREC provides technical expertise in handling hazardous material emergencies.

CHEMTREC also provides additional phone numbers for emergencies such as accidental poisoning.

#### ***FIRST OFFICER RESPONSE***

1. Officers should not enter into the area of a spillage or leak.

2. Relay the following information to the Communications Center:

Type of incident (railway, highway, factory);

Basic description (explosion, fire, etc.);

Exact location;

Name of hazardous material and class;

Quantity involved.

3. Without risk of exposure or injury to the officer, an attempt to rescue persons in the hazard area should be made.

4. Avoid inhalation of all gases, fumes, and smoke. Stand upwind of scene.

5. Detour all traffic around the scene. Avoid the use of flares. Traffic cones and barricades are preferred for traffic control.

6. Stop all unauthorized personnel from entering the scene.

**NOTIFICATION**

1. The communication's operator shall immediately notify the following when advised of a hazardous material incident:

- The Fire Department.
- Additional personnel as requested by the on duty Supervisor
- Command Staff and Chief of Police

**EVACUATION**

1. The evacuation of persons and protection of property should be the first priority in an effected area. Careful thought should be given to what danger or hazard is posed to the people living or working in the immediate area or its proximity. To determine the proper course of action, a number of factors must be taken into account, including weather conditions, population and traffic patterns.

2. The decision to evacuate will be made by the ranking police and fire officials on the scene.

3. The evacuation area may be enlarged as conditions change and time permits.

4. Every effort shall be made to prevent outsiders and nonessential personnel from entering the evacuated area until an all clear is given by the Fire Department. To the greatest extent possible, this will be accomplished through road blocks and police patrols.

**EMERGENCY FIRST AID**

1. Segregate and detain those who have possibly been in contact with the hazardous materials until they can be examined. Obtain names and addresses of those involved.

2. Remove the injured from the area of the accident with as little contact as possible. Hold them at a transfer point.

3. Take measures necessary to save life, but only carry out that first aid necessary to preserve life until medical help arrives.

4. If the officer comes in contact with any of the suspected dangerous material,

medical assistance should be sought immediately.

5. If clothing becomes contaminated seek medical assistance for proper disposal.