HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY

Awareness Level Response Plan
29 CFR 1910.120 (q) and 40 CFR 311

This plan addresses health and safety protection for the

Med-Care Ambulance Service

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Assistant Director
May 26, 2006
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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY
AWARENESS LEVEL RESPONSE PLAN

I. Purpose

Med-Care personnel may be the first to arrive at the scene of an accident or incident involving hazardous materials. These events must be considered dangerous to both department personnel and to the public.

Furthermore, Med-Care personnel may be working with hazardous materials themselves, or assisting other contractors or agencies that are working with these materials.

This plan will help insure safety of our response personnel and will enable Med-Care Ambulance to better perform its role in assisting emergency service personnel during a hazardous materials incident.

An emergency response plan shall be developed and implemented to handle anticipated emergencies prior to the commencement of emergency response operations. “The plan shall be in writing and available for inspection and copying by employees, their representatives and OSHA personnel,” per 29 CFR Part 1910-120 (q)(1).

II. Pre-Emergency Planning and Coordination

This plan contains the general policies and procedures for hazardous materials, planning, coordination, and emergency response.

This plan requires the use of the Incident Command System by all persons participating or responding to an incident involving Hazardous Materials.

III. Personnel Roles and Lines of Authority

When a Hazardous Materials emergency has been identified, response personnel may secure the scene, but will stay away from the immediate incident site and will not become involved in rescue or mitigation.

The designated lead agency will be immediately notified. The designated lead agency is the local fire department for that town and the Rumford Fire Department (Rumford Fire is the dispatch center for the New Page Haz-Mat Team).

In the event that departmental personnel must temporarily take charge of an emergency, Incident Command will be transferred to the senior official of the designated lead agency as soon as is practical.

Departmental personnel will confine their activities to those described herein, and will not engage in activities outside of the scope of their training.
The policy for Med-Care Personnel when confronted with a hazardous materials incident is to:

1. Attempt to safely assess hazards that are present in the situation whenever possible, keeping in mind the personal safety of department personnel, as well as the safety of others whom may be present.

2. Immediately report the situation to the dispatcher and request that the local emergency response organizations be notified.

3. Implement traffic and crowd control procedures when necessary.

4. Carry out an evacuation of the immediate area if the situation is too critical to await other emergency response personnel and if it can be done safely.

5. Support lead agency operations within limits of training and from safe distances, outside the area of possible exposure.

The lead agency cooperates with other primary and secondary supporting organizations and may, as the situation requires, direct other public organizations and activities.

IV. Emergency Recognition

Med-Care personnel, in the performance of their assigned duties, shall remain alert to the possibility of a hazardous materials emergency.

When encountering traffic accidents or other potential chemical release situations, personnel must be alert to evidence of hazardous materials, including placards unusual vehicle configurations, obvious leaks, and similar signs that indicate a possible hazard. If shipping papers can be obtained without exposure to hazardous materials, they will include emergency contact telephone numbers and should be transferred to the designated lead agency as soon as possible.

Departmental personnel are to maintain an awareness of which industrial or other facilities within their jurisdiction routinely manufacture or use hazardous materials. These facilities are required to maintain current Material Safety Data Sheets for hazardous materials at their locations.

Hazard Identification

a. If first on the scene, attempt to assess the situation from a safe distance. If binoculars are available, use them to read the placard identification number. If possible, identify any labels, placards, container shapes, shipping papers, and information on the vehicles and information from the driver without exposing yourself to any safety hazards. If there is no placard, or the placard is not visible, the vehicle could still contain hazardous materials.

b. Refer to the current U.S. Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook and other available references for information on hazards about the materials involved.

c. Inform the dispatcher of the situation, relaying as much information as you know to be fact, and continuously update information as changes occur.
d. If emergency personnel are at the scene, obtain information on the nature of the hazardous materials from them.

V. Response

A. Emergency Alerting and Notification Procedures

The reporting of spills and releases will be made to the appropriate dispatch center by telephone from the facility experiencing the release or a transporter, citizen or emergency responder in the field for transportation related incidents.

The dispatcher will obtain pertinent information (use the orange AR-1 Hazardous Materials Incident Initial Notification Form, shaded areas are priority), relay it to units to respond and begin appropriate calling sequences for alerting of responders and notification to elected officials and others as required.

Dispatchers will be provided with the orange AR-1 Hazardous Materials Incident Initial Notification Forms and calling lists.

B. Communications

Communications between responders and dispatch centers will be primarily by radio with telephones used as required and appropriate.

Med-Care personnel shall make contact with Incident Commander at the emergency scene and obtain instructions as to the deployment of vehicles and personnel.

Med-Care shall establish a communications link between the Oxford County EOC (if activated) and the designated Command Post via telephone or appropriate radio system.

C. Protective Actions

When assisting at the scene of a hazardous materials emergency, Med-Care personnel will observe the following precautions:

1. Safe Distances and Places of Refuge

   a. Stop and park far enough away from the incident site so as not to introduce an ignition source. Do not smoke and refrain from using flares. Note any weather conditions, and wind direction. Stay upwind of the scene unless otherwise advised. Follow the instructions of the Incident Commander regarding placement of vehicles and personnel.

   b. Identify an “escape route” or specific place of refuge in the event that fire, explosion, or toxic gases pose a threat. If appropriate, park vehicles facing away from the incident scene. Do not block escape or access routes with vehicles.
c. Do not drive or walk into or through any spilled material.

d. Avoid inhalation of all gases, fumes, and smoke even if no hazardous material is apparently involved.

e. Never eat, drink, or smoke on the area of a possible hazardous materials release.

2. Emergency Medical Treatment

a. Cautiously determine if any injured require rescue and make appropriate notification to dispatch. Leave rescue to emergency services personnel who have been appropriately trained and equipped, unless rescue efforts can be conducted safely.

(Note): Without protective clothing, you may not be able to assist anyone without becoming a victim yourself. If you or anyone becomes contaminated or exposed, report this immediately to your site safety officer and to arriving emergency personnel. (Isolation or treatment may be required.)

b. Request emergency medical personnel to respond, even if there are no apparent injuries. Medical assistance must be available as a precaution.

c. Provide emergency medical care to the level of your training, but do not contaminate yourself by contact with the victim.

3. Site Security and Control

a. Set up an outer perimeter and isolate the hazard area. If ever in doubt, use caution and provide for at least a 1500-foot radius to protect you and the general public unless otherwise specified in the current U.S. Depart. Of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook.

b. Do not permit civilians or other emergency workers to inadvertently walk or drive through spilled material.

c. Control traffic at the emergency scene as necessary to prevent vehicles from moving within the risk area or blocking access. It is often necessary to seal off the area and re-route traffic. This must be done from outside the hazard zone and only in and through safe areas.

4. Evacuation Routes and Procedures

Evacuation means the removal of the general public from their places of employment or residence (it does not mean normal crowd control activities at an emergency scene).

Many hazardous materials incidents involve small-scale evacuations, such as the affected building, or adjacent areas.
If Med-Care personnel are the first to arrive at a hazardous materials incident, they may find it necessary to perform small-scale evacuations based on the potential hazard.

Large-scale evacuations will be ordered by the Incident Commander of a public official and implemented by police and fire personnel.

**Evacuees must be moved to safe place or refuge using routes that will not cause exposure to chemicals.**

5. Emergency Response Chemical Protective Clothing

Emergency Response Protective Clothing is **not issued** to Med-Care personnel, and **cannot be used** without specialized training. Operations, which require emergency response chemical personal protective clothing (PPE), must be referred to the designated lead agency.

6. Decontamination

In the event that personnel become contaminated at a hazardous materials incident, they must take steps to insure that they are decontaminated.

Decontamination may be as simple as the removal of shoes or boots, or more extensive removal of clothing combined with washing, chemical neutralization, or medical treatment may be required.

If contamination or potential contamination occurs, it should be reported immediately to the site safety officer. The designated lead agency will be responsible for establishing a decontamination station.

**VI. Critique of Response and Follow-up**

An agency debriefing and an incident critique will be conducted at the close of all operations but within 30 days of the emergency according to policies of the designated lead agency.

Departmental personnel shall be debriefed by their supervisor immediately following the emergency. This debriefing will focus on:

a. Written summary of response activities (who did what and other important information).

b. Safety and health issues (are there any injuries, chemical exposures or effects, need for decontamination etc.).

c. Immediate problems (lost/damaged equipment, follow-up of investigation).

d. Corrective actions needed and assignment of responsibility for accomplishing them.
VII. **Training and Exercises**

All Med-Care personnel who may be called upon to respond to a hazardous materials emergency will be trained as required by OSHA regulations in hazardous materials awareness (initial and annual refresher training). Training courses shall be conducted through courses offered by this department or other governmental and private concerns.

Med-Care may participate in at least one hazardous materials emergency drill of exercise per year as specified by the designated lead agency.
## Resource Inventory

### Fire Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Agency</th>
<th>Emergency Phone Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rumford Fire Department</td>
<td>364-7992</td>
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<td>Mexico Fire Department</td>
<td>1-800-482-7433</td>
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<td>Dixfield Fire Department</td>
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Jay
Milton Plantation
Woodstock
Locke Mills

Police Agencies (cont.)

Gilead
Oxford County S.O.
State Police (Gray Barracks)
Franklin County S.O.
Androscoggin County S.O.

Ambulances and Emergency Medical Services

Med-Care Ambulance
Andover Rescue
Canton Rescue
Bethel Rescue
Tri-Town Rescue
CES Ambulance
Pace Paramedic Service
Lifestar Ambulance Service
United Ambulance
Rangeley Rescue
Turner Rescue
Franklin County S.O.
Androscoggin County S.O.
Oxford County S.O.

Hospitals

Rumford Community Hospital
Central Maine Medical Center
Franklin Memorial Hospital
Stephens Memorial Hospital
St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center
Maine Medical Center
Androscoggin Valley Hospital (Berlin NH)
Bridgton Hospital

Local Government Officials

Andover Town Office
Byron Town Office
Canton Town Office
Carthage Town Office
Dixfield Town Office
Mexico Town Office
Newry Town Office  824-3123
Peru Town Office   562-4627
Rumford Town Office 364-4576
Roxbury Town Office 364-3982

Public Works Departments
Andover Town Garage  392-3602
Byron Town Office  364-3194
Canton Town Garage  597-2404
Carthage Town Office  562-8874
Dixfield Public Works  562-4654
Mexico Highway Department  364-2666
Newry Town Office  824-3123
Peru Town Office  562-4627
Roxbury Town Office  364-3982
Rumford Town Garage  364-4481

Health Department
OSHA  622-8417

Emergency Management Services
Maine Emergency Management  1-800-452-8735
Oxford County EMA  743-6336

Red Cross and Human Resources
Tri-County Chapter (Auburn)  795-4004

Environmental Resources
Department of Environmental Protection  1-800-452-1942
To report hazardous substances, toxic chemicals, oil spills
   Federal 1-800-424-8802
   State 1-800-482-0777

National and Local Weather Services
Weather Forecast  976-1212
First Responder Awareness Level
Definition

First responders at the awareness level are individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the release. They would take no further action beyond notifying the authorities of the release. First responders at this level shall have sufficient training or experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas.

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

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

c. The ability to recognize the presence of hazardous materials in an emergency.

d. The ability to identify the hazardous materials, if possible.

e. An understanding of the role of the first responder awareness individual in the employer’s emergency response plan including site security and control and the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Emergency Response Guidebook.

f. The ability to realize the need for additional resources and to make appropriate notifications to the communication center.