

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Policy Name: Hazardous Materials/Personnel Safety		
Policy Number: 511.12	Effective Date: 4/13/2018	Page Number: 1 of 3
Authority: Commissioner	Originating Division: Facilities Division	Access Listing: Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

This policy establishes guidelines for firefighters to follow while engaged in incidents involving hazardous materials. The purpose of these guidelines is to minimize the risk of death and injury during hazardous materials (HazMat) incidents.

II. Authority:

- A. Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): 511.34 Hazardous Chemical Protection and Right to Know and 218.03 Control and Dispensation of Gasoline and Hazardous Materials;
- B. National Fire Protection Association Codes 471 and 1500; and
- C. ACA Standards: 1-CTA-3B-06 and 4-4215.

III. Definitions:

- A. HazMat - Hazardous Materials.
- B. BLEVE - Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. General:
 1. The most important action to be taken at any hazardous materials incident is to recognize that a hazardous material is present. If the potential exists for the presence of a hazardous material, then assume the worst until it can be confirmed that no danger exists.
 2. The incident area must be secured and no one shall be allowed to enter the area until the incident commander determines that it is safe to do so.
 3. The material(s) present should be identified and appropriate help summoned.

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B. Operations:

1. There are three recognized levels of responses of hazardous materials incidents:
 - a. Level I: The least serious level and within the capabilities of the department. Evacuation, if required, will be limited to the immediate area. Examples: gasoline or diesel spills.
 - b. Level II: A Level II incident is beyond the capabilities of the department and requires the service of a formal HazMat Response Team. Examples: the rupture of a pipeline or a fire with the threat of a BLEVE.
 - c. Level III: The most serious level, requiring special resources from public and private agencies. It will require a large scale evacuation and implementation of the jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Plan.
2. Operations shall be either defensive or offensive;
 - a. Defensive operations focus on confinement without directly contacting the hazardous material(s) creating the problem.
 - b. Offensive operations focus on aggressive actions on the material(s), container, or process, and may result in contact with the material(s). Offensive operations will not be conducted unless the incident commander can determine that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risks involved.
3. Personnel shall not be allowed to enter the warm zone or the hot zone without proper training and personal protection.
4. Personnel shall not be permitted to leave the warm zone or the hot zone without proper decontamination.
5. The Station Chief shall be responsible for monitoring all firefighters for indicators of toxic exposure effects, including the following:

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- a. Change in complexion, skin discoloration;
 - b. Lack of coordination;
 - c. Change of demeanor;
 - d. Excessive salivation, papillary response;
 - e. Changes in speech pattern;
 - f. Headaches;
 - g. Dizziness;
 - h. Blurred vision;
 - i. Cramps; and
 - j. Irritation of the eyes, skin, or respiratory tract.
6. Any firefighter exposed to hazardous materials shall complete a Hazardous Material Exposure Form.

V. Attachments:

Attachment 1: Hazardous Materials Exposure Form

VI. Records Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:

Upon completion, a copy of the Hazardous Materials Exposure Form shall be placed in the firefighter's medical file and retained according to the retention schedule for that file.