

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

I. PURPOSE

To identify actions required to minimize damage to human health, natural systems and property caused by the actual or potential spill or release of hazardous materials, including a radioactive material incident/accident.

II. SITUATION

- A. Substances, which if released in an uncontrolled manner (i.e. spill), can be harmful to people, animals, property, and/or the environment. A hazardous material is any substance or combination of substances, which because of quantity, concentration, physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may pose substantial immediate or potential hazards to humans or the environment.
- B. Fillmore County is vulnerable to various hazardous materials. Agricultural and industrial chemicals, explosive and combustible materials are transported and stored in the county.
 - 1. There are facilities within the county with the potential for a release beyond the boundaries of the facility.
 - a. Some facilities store extremely hazardous material over the SARA Title III threshold levels. See Attachment 1 for the listing of facilities.
 - c. Some facilities produce, use or store hazardous materials that are not required to be reported under Title III. See Attachment 1.
 - 2. Hazardous materials, including radiological materials, transported on Highway 6, 41, 74 AND 81 or railroad, pipelines, or aircraft, could be involved in an accident causing a spill or the potential for a spill.
 - 3. There are vulnerable areas and populations.
 - a. Locations near facilities with hazardous materials may contribute to additional risk. See Attachment 1 for these locations.
 - b. Special populations, such as schools, hospitals, or nursing homes, are subject to additional risk due to their proximity to facilities with hazardous substances (Attachment 1).
 - 4. Some areas of Fillmore County because of sensitive environment, land use patterns, or water supplies are particularly vulnerable (Attachment 1).

5. Response to a HazMat incident may be affected by the weather or time of day.
- C. OSHA (CFR 1910.120) and EPA regulations define levels of training required for response to a hazardous materials incident. The employer must certify the level of training for each person who may respond to an incident. Responders will not perform any function they are not trained and equipped to execute.
1. There are no HazMat Response Teams in Fillmore County, none trained and equipped to respond to a hazardous material spill.
 2. Fillmore County has no mutual aid agreement with any HazMat team and relies solely on the SERT Team activation.
 3. There are State Emergency Response Teams (SERT), referred to as, MOU cities, located across the state. To request their assistance contact NEMA at 402-471-7421.
 4. The fire departments have response vehicles equipped with some of the following special resources: self-contained breathing apparatus, bunker/turnout gear, binoculars, foam/agents, foam application equipment, sorbents, communications, radiological monitoring equipment, dry chemical extinguishers and crews are trained to handle some but not all hazardous materials incidents.
 5. Facilities that use and store hazardous materials may have response equipment. See the individual facility list, Attachment 1.
- D. There are many different ways an individual can be exposed to radioactive materials. Highways and railroads are used for receiving and/or transporting these materials. Any peacetime radiological incident would probably be the result of a transportation accident.
- E. There may be licensed users of radioactive materials within the county. To include hospitals and doctors who are licensed and regulated by the Nebraska Radioactive Materials Program administered through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Radiological Health.

III. ASSUMPTIONS and PLANNING FACTORS

- A. The fire department or law enforcement agency responding to an accident scene will usually be the first to discover the presence of hazardous materials either spilling or with the potential to spill. These personnel usually have had some training in handling this type of incident.

- B. It is imperative that the hazardous material involved in the incident be identified as early as possible for the safety not only of the general populace, but for the first responders as well. Knowledge of the agent involved will determine the specific response required.
- C. This plan considers any incident/accident involving radioactive materials. The most likely scenario would be a transportation accident. It is unlikely that the shipping container would rupture due to impact; however, attendant with each vehicle accident is the possibility of fire or an explosion. These could either melt the protective lead containers or create a rupture allowing a release of the radioactive materials. In the early stages of this type incident/accident, local capabilities are usually limited because assistance from persons with special radiological knowledge and expertise may not be immediately available.
- D. In the event of a radiological incident/accident, response personnel will notify the Nebraska State Patrol in Lincoln (402) 471-4545. The first responder calling the State Patrol should gather as much of the information as possible using the Hazardous Materials Reporting Form (Attachment 2) prior to placing the call.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The fire department is responsible for:
 - 1. Coordinating with the facility emergency coordinator on response to hazardous substances in the facility.
 - 2. The initial response and containment, if possible.
 - 3. Coordinating and establishing a command post at the scene.
 - 4. Assuring that first responders receive sufficient direction to be able to handle the situation properly.
 - 5. Planning for possible in-place-shelter or evacuation of buildings or areas involved.
 - 6. Coordinating with law enforcement in defining the hazard area.
 - 7. Requesting a Nebraska Hazards Incident Team (NHIT) through the Nebraska State Patrol, as needed.
 - 8. Initiating notification of support agencies including hospitals that may receive potentially contaminated patients.

9. Ensuring that a hazardous material training program is conducted for all department personnel.

B. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for:

1. Providing security for the hazard area.
2. Hazard area traffic and crowd control.
3. Directing and controlling any evacuations.
4. Providing hazmat training their personnel.

C. Emergency Management is responsible for the:

1. Notification of support agencies.
2. Coordination with charitable and volunteer organizations that may provide assistance.
3. Coordination with state and federal agencies that may have a disaster response role.
4. Coordination in notifying the public of evacuation areas or other health and protective measures.
5. Obtaining or coordinating appropriate training programs which will provide the skills and capabilities required for radiological operations within the various government departments. Emergency response agencies such as law enforcement, fire, and rescue services are considered primary responders to a radiological incident.

D. Radiological Responders

1. Radiological officer

- a. Fillmore County does not have an assigned and trained Radiological Officer (RO).
- b. The RO works with the county emergency management, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the Nebraska Health and Human Services to develop and maintain a radiological program in the jurisdiction. The radiological officer is involved in recruiting and training radiological monitors, makes quarterly operational checks of assigned monitoring equipment and reviews response plans.

2. Radiological Monitor

- a. Fillmore County does not have assigned and trained Radiological Monitors (RM).
 - b. Radiological monitors are first responders with additional training in on-scene radiological monitoring. A radiological monitor identifies radiological hazards, recommends protective actions, works with the local responders, continues monitoring and makes technical recommendations to the Incident Commander until all regulatory agencies declare the site safe.
1. Local government agencies may be responsible for decontamination of their equipment and vehicles.

E. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

- 1. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is locally organized with representatives from first responders, industrial, environmental, media, concerned citizens and others appointed by the State Emergency Response Commission. The LEPC is governed by Nebraska State 81-15,217(a) through (e) and 81-15,22 and the membership and activities are approved and regulated by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) which is administered by NEMA and the Dept of Environmental Quality.
- 2. The LEPC's responsibilities are specified in RSS 81-15,191 to 81-15,235. These responsibilities include but may not be limited to:
 - a. Developing and exercising a plan to identify and coordinate the local response to an incident involving hazardous materials.
 - b. Providing information to citizens of the district on the hazardous substances stored and used in their neighborhoods
 - c. Provide help in identifying potential chemical hazards and risks to the community, public education, review and development of a community hazmat response plan (this Appendix), review and improvement to fixed facilities plans after an hazmat event in the county.
 - d. Much of this work is accomplished by:
 - i. Completing an annual review and update of this annex and attachments.
 - ii. Evaluating the need for resources necessary to develop, implement, and exercise the emergency plan and make

recommendations with respect to additional resources that may be required and the means for providing such additional resources.

- iii. Designating a public library in each county within its district as the depository for the emergency plan.
 - iv. Providing the emergency plan to the governing bodies having jurisdiction in the district for review prior to submitting the plan to the SERC.
 - v. Respond to a request for information following Federal Public Law 44-499.
 - vi. Annually publish a public notice in a local newspaper that the local emergency plan (this LEOP, Annex F, Appendix 1) and Tier II forms have been submitted and are available for public review.
- e. The LEPC may have an agreement with the county emergency management to assist in other disaster planning or outreach activities
 - f. Additional detailed information concerning the roles and responsibilities of an LEPC are available from the SERC Administrator at the NEMA.

F. State Agencies

1. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
 - a. Coordinates state agency response and provides assistance and support as determined by the situation.
 - b. Provides the SERC administrative guidance for the LEPC.
2. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ)
 - a. Provides technical assistance to the LEPC in its planning activities.
 - b. Provides technical assistance for determining areas likely to be affected by a release.
 - c. Provides technical assistance relevant to the containment and cleanup of hazardous materials incidents. They are also responsible for warning downstream water users, where applicable.
 - d. Approves the cleanup plan and notifies the responsible person when satisfactory cleanup is achieved.

- e. Gives prior approval to all disposal actions.
 - f. May require a report, following the cleanup, from the responsible person describing all aspects of the incident including cause of the release, monitoring requirements (long and short term), cleanup and disposal methods, and steps to prevent a similar occurrence. If the cleanup is to be long-term, the Department may require interim status reports.
 - g. Is the main point of contact with a regional response team (RRT), for requesting assistance, resources and coordination with federal agencies for response, cleanup and recovery actions.
2. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
 - a. The Department of Health and Human Services, under the authority of R.R.S. 71-3513, has responsibility to issue regulations and require actions needed to meet any radiological emergency. Once notified of an accident/incident involving radioactive materials, DHHS is responsible for health hazard assessment and controlling advising of all safety, containment, decontamination, and cleanup actions.
 - b. DHHS notifies the public of the potential health effects of a HazMat incident.
 3. The Nebraska State Fire Marshal supports the local fire department's response in all working fires and hazardous materials incidents.
 4. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture can provide additional technical assistance for a suspected or actual pesticide release.

G. Federal Government

1. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC)
 - a. Coordinates the overall federal technical response to a radiological emergency.
 - b. Provides technical advice to state or local agencies.
 - c. Assesses the nature and extent of the radiological emergency and the potential consequences to the health and safety of the public.

2. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - a. Emergency planning and response branch provides technical assistance in hazardous material spills under the National Contingency Plan.
 - b. Establishes radiological protective action guides (PAGs) and recommends appropriate protective measures.
 - c. During emergency operations provides personnel, equipment, and laboratory support to assist Department of Energy (DOE) in monitoring activities.
 - d. Assumes the responsibility from DOE for the intermediate and long-term monitoring function.
 - e. Can provide resources through the Regional Response Team (RRT). The RRT can be activated through the NDEQ.
 - f. Office of Water and Hazardous Materials provides assistance with pesticide incidents.
 - g. Section 123 of SARA authorizes EPA to reimburse local governments, who qualify, for expenses incurred in carrying out temporary emergency measures in response to hazardous substance threats. Reimbursement is available only to local governments. To be eligible for these funds, EPA must be notified within 24 hours of the incident by calling the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. An application package may be obtained by calling the Local Government Reimbursement Helpline, 1-800-431-9209.
3. Department of Energy (DOE) during federal support operations will provide the personnel, an on-scene technical director, and equipment for radiological monitoring and assessment activities.
4. Department of Transportation (DOT) under Public Law 93-633, Section 109 (d) (2), is required to provide information and advice in transportation emergencies involving hazardous materials. The DOT will also investigate transportation accidents and inspect for violations under their authority.
5. National Response Center (NRC) receives and relays notices of releases to the appropriate On-Scene Commander (OSC), disseminates OSC and RRT reports to the National Response Team (NRT), and provides facilities for the NRT to use in coordinating a national response action.

H. Industry

1. Owner or Operator

- a. The owner is required to notify the State Department of Environmental Quality upon discovery of a release of certain hazardous materials.
- b. The owner or operator will designate a facility emergency coordinator who will participate in the planning process and who will notify:
 - i. The Community Emergency Coordinator (CEC) for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC),
 - ii. The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) of any state likely to be affected by the release,
 - iii. The National Response Center (NRC), and
 - iv. Any other persons to whom the facility is to give notification.
- c. The facility emergency coordinator will make available to the community emergency coordinator any information needed for implementing this emergency plan including advice on response, evacuation and in-place shelter options.

2. Shipper

- a. Under the regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the shipper of hazardous materials is responsible for complying with all applicable regulations in packaging, labeling, marking, and otherwise preparing any goods for transport by carrier. The shipper must certify on the shipping papers that applicable regulatory requirements have been met.
- b. DOT regulations also require the shipper to inform the carrier of any special precautions that must be taken in the transport of the goods.
- c. If called in case of an accident, the shipper is also required to provide whatever details about the shipment necessary and helpful. The shipper may wish to offer assistance in confining and cleaning up any accident involving his shipment.
- d. The shipper must also provide a list of 24-hour telephone contacts of persons familiar with the technical details of the shipment.

3. Carrier:

- a. The carrier is responsible for handling, stowing, storing shipments, and placarding vehicles in accordance with DOT regulations and exercising due care in transporting the shipment to the consignee.
- b. In the event of an accident, the carrier is responsible for initial actions to include notification of appropriate governments, the shipper, DOT, and possibly the Department of Energy (DOE).
- c. The carrier also has the basic responsibility for containing or confining any threat associated with the cargo in his possession, whether or not radioactive materials or other hazardous materials are involved.
- d. During recovery, the carrier also has the basic responsibility to see that the cleanup/decontamination is completed.

4. Licensees operating within the states generally fall into one or two categories.

- a. They either must comply with the Nebraska Radiation Control Act (RRS 71-3501 to 71-3519) or,
- b. They must be covered by an appropriate reciprocal procedure.
- c. In the event of a radiological incident, licensees must respond as required by DHHS regulations. Licensees may assume the responsibilities of the shipper when radioactive materials under their control must be transported by a carrier.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Most operations would be conducted as defined elsewhere throughout this plan. This appendix addresses only those unique aspects of hazardous materials incidents.

A. Notification

1. When a hazardous materials incident is identified, the first responders will notify local authorities and executives of the incident.
 - a. In the event of a fixed site incident, the facility will use the normal emergency notification system to notify the fire chief, who is the designated community emergency coordinator (CEC). The Incident Commander shall decide to implement the plan.

- b. In the event of a transportation spill, the notification will be satisfied by dialing 911.
2. The owners/shippers of the materials should be notified to request information on the properties of the hazardous materials involved.
3. The appropriate state agencies should be advised of the situation using the Hazardous Material Incident Report Form(attachment 3) to ensure that all necessary information is gathered and reported and to request assistance if the situation is beyond local and/or mutual aid capabilities.
4. When radiological material is confirmed, the DHHS should be immediately notified via Nebraska State Patrol.
5. County emergency management will alert volunteer and charitable organizations that may provide assistance to evacuees.

B. Initial Response

1. The Incident Commander will identify the area to be isolated by a controlled perimeter, the area of population likely to be affected by such release, and report this information to the dispatch center to relay to other responding agencies.
2. Determine the nature of the material from the facility personnel, placards, labels, or shipping papers from the shipper/owner.
3. Identify, evaluate, and assess the problem and its potential. Consider that some effects of the incident may not be noticeable for some time.
4. Contact CHEMTREC (1-800-424-9300) for information to determine the most effective handling of the incident.
5. A Nebraska Hazard Incident Team (NHIT) may be requested through the Nebraska State Patrol to aid the responding units. NSP will dispatch the closest members of the team to the scene to provide guidance and technical assistance to the Incident Commander.

C. Emergency Public Information

It is important to provide accurate information to the public so they know what to do immediately to protect them.

1. The public information officer (PIO) will coordinate the dissemination of information concerning the incident with the chief executive officer, emergency management and the Incident Commander as defined in Annex D.

2. Because information will be needed quickly, radio and television are the best media to release data on health hazards, precautions for personal protection, and evacuation routes away from the hazard area. Radio and TV stations commonly used in Fillmore County are listed in Annex D, Attachment 1.

D. Evacuation / In-place-shelter

1. The Incident Commander will make the decision to shelter in-place or to evacuate based on the recommendations of CHEMTREC, the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook, the product manufacturer, and/or state or federal agency advisors.
2. Policy and procedures for evacuation are defined in Annex E. In-place sheltering procedures are in Annex J. Procedures for movement of evacuees are in Annex H. Procedures for the reception and care of evacuees are in Annex I.

E. Containment and Cleanup

1. Determine what can be done, based on training and equipment available, to remove the threat, i.e., contain and/or counteract, decontaminate, or remove, etc. By law it is the spiller's responsibility to contain or confine any threat associated with the cargo in their possession.
2. The party responsible for spilling the product should, depending on the material involved, complete the cleanup and disposal as specified by publications and agencies.
3. The manufacturer is a source of advice and information for a chemical decontamination team.
4. The Regional Response Team (RRT), composed of representatives of Federal Agencies may be convened by the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FCO) to provide advice or recommendations during a response to a major hazardous materials incident.

F. Health and Safety

Federal law requires the presence of a safety officer on every hazardous materials site. The safety officer will:

1. Determine the types of respiratory or other personal protective equipment required for workers.
2. Have victims treated if an accurate diagnosis can be obtained. Some effects may not be noticeable for some time. Information should be

obtained to identify all persons at the scene even if no immediate medical problems appear.

3. Get emergency medical information and other pertinent information from CHEMTREC (800-424-9300).
4. Notify local supporting hospitals of the hazardous substance's identity and the number of persons affected.
5. Have standby medical personnel ready to provide service to those working on the material. Follow standard procedures for baseline medical checkups for everybody who enters and leaves the 'hot zone' or has been exposed.
6. Every precaution should be taken to minimize exposure of emergency workers to radiation. Dosimeters are included in all monitoring sets issued to emergency response personnel. Once the presence of radioactive material is detected, the on-scene commander will ensure that personnel wear dosimeters and/or TLDs (if available). The Fillmore County Radiological officer will ensure that sufficient dosimeters/TLDs are charged and available at the scene and that records of exposure times and readings are initiated. Lifesaving rescue and emergency care will not be delayed in order to obtain precise measurements of radiation exposure levels or to distribute radiological equipment.
 - a. Radiation exposure to emergency workers will be kept as low as reasonably achievable. Guidelines recommend maximum accumulation of not more than 1 REM in general emergency situation or 25 REM to save a life.
 - b. Air breathing apparatus should be utilized if there is a gaseous or particulate release of radioactive material. If in doubt, the equipment should be used.

G. Security

The defined hazard area will be isolated and cordoned, permitting only lifesaving and response operations. Only those responders properly trained and equipped will be allowed entry.

H. Explosive Handling

Only trained specialists should attempt to remove or defuse an explosive device when found.

1. Law enforcement, key officials, and the Nebraska State Patrol will be notified immediately. Other agencies that might be notified depending on the circumstances are the state fire marshal and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.
2. If it is a military device, notify the nearest military installation.
3. If terrorist activity is suspected, use the procedures outlined in Appendix 1 to Annex H.

VI. TRAINING AND EXERCISE

A. Training

1. In addition to the training required for normal operations, fire, law enforcement and medical personnel should be trained to respond to a hazardous material incident to the level determined by their employer in accordance with OSHA (CFR-1910.120) and EPA regulations. All training supported by the Homeland Security process or grants must be DHS (Department of Homeland Security) approved.
2. Radiological officers and radiological monitors will receive initial radiological training. This training will specifically relate to their area of individual responsibility.

B. Exercise

An exercise involving response to a hazardous material incident should be conducted annually. The training program will be consistent with the Homeland Security Exercise Plan policies.