

Truro Police Department

HAZADOUS MATERIALS

Policy Number: OPS-9.03

Effective Date: June 1, 2000

REFERENCE:

Accreditation Standards:

Mass. Gen. Law:

Other: Truro Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

POLICY:

Hazardous materials are now used in numerous businesses industries and transported through the Town of Truro on a daily basis by truck. The possibility of a hazardous materials accident Involving a vehicle or business has become a reality. The extent of damage from an accident involving a hazardous material depends largely on the response of emergency personnel and their ability to correctly identify and deal with such an incident.

It is the policy of the Truro Police Department to provide for the initial response and investigation of accidents involving hazardous materials while minimizing danger to personnel.

PROCEDURE:

1. Because of the potential hazard which might exist or may develop through an accident, especially a derailment or overturned vehicle transporting hazardous materials, a cautious approach should be made in responding to and investigating such incidents. Officers approaching any truck or other situation/accident that may involve hazardous materials should take the following actions:
 - a. Any evidence of leaking liquid or vapor should be sufficient to alarm officers of potential danger and to seal of the area/street until positive identification can be made by the Truro Fire Department, who shall have been called immediately.
 1. Placards are required to be displayed at the front, rear, and on both sides of all vehicles (including rail cars) hauling hazardous materials, depending on quantity.
 2. When the incident involves a truck, the driver of the truck may be able to supply information. Keep the driver at the scene and available if possible.

3. The driver of a truck or officials aboard a train transporting hazardous materials should have shipping papers, which will identify hazardous materials and instructions for handling such materials.
4. To supplement the placarding system, many shippers of chemicals provide the drivers with Chem-cards (chemical identification cards) which provide emergency information. Although Chem-cards are subject only to voluntary use, the officer should ask the driver for the Chem-card. If located, retain the Chem-card and make it available for the Fire Department.
5. Emergency plans for certain businesses who store/use hazardous materials are on file in the Fire Department.
6. A Hazardous Materials Information File is accessible on NLETS (National Law Enforcement Telegraph System) through the State Police Computer (LEAPS/CJIS) terminal in the police station. The Placard Number is needed to inquire on the file. Information related to health hazards, fire/explosion risk, emergency action, fire fighting techniques, first aid treatment, and containment suggestions.
7. The Department Of Transportation, Emergency Response Guidebook for Hazardous Materials Incidents is available in every cruiser and in the operation's area. Information described in #6 above is provided.
8. Approach the accident scene up wind if possible. If radiological materials are suspected or involved, do not approach. Await fire department personnel or hazardous material (HAZMAT) team personnel who have special monitoring equipment.
9. Request the dispatcher to contact the Truro Fire Department. Upon their arrival, and confirmation of a hazardous material incident, the Truro Fire Department will assume authority and responsibility for initiation of emergency procedures and the Truro Police will provide assistance as requested by the fire department official in charge.
10. The Shift Commander shall respond and ensure appropriate notifications are made, motor vehicle accident investigation personnel are assigned (if a motor vehicle is involved), and cooperation with participating agencies is maintained.
11. The Shift Commander shall immediately notify the Chief of Police, or his designee, of any hazardous material incident, which could cause the evacuation of persons from any part of Truro. The Emergency Management Coordinator will be notified, and the Truro Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (kept at communications) shall be utilized.

- b. Normal accident investigation procedures will be suspended until such time as appropriate clearance has been received, at which time the accident will be investigated and reported.
2. The Truro Fire Department will have the primary responsibility for notification of other agencies in HAZMAT situations.
3. The key contact agencies and persons are available for evaluation and assistance in the handling of hazardous material incidents, evacuating, etc. They must have information about the incident in order to assist. Every effort must be made to obtain the following information before contacting these agencies:
 - a. Location of incident.
 - b. Material involved and shipper if known.
 - c. The color and number of labels.
 - d. Type of environment (residential, rural, business).
 - e. Container size and amount of product leaking.
 - f. If rail, number of cars from head of train.
 - g. If aircraft, initial and number (tail number).
4. If an evacuation is eminent, the Emergency Management Director shall be contacted and the evacuation plan shall be implemented. *Refer to the Truro Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan located in the Communications Center.*

CHECK LIST - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

- Notify the fire department
 - Fire department will assume command of emergency
 - Weather & wind conditions including directions & forecast
 - Severity of hazard to citizens & emergency personnel
 - Traffic and crowd control
 - Placard and/or shipping info. DOT HANDBOOK
 - Keep truck driver at the scene if possible for information
 - Material name
 - Property/vehicle owner's name
 - Stay upwind
 - Gas masks are ineffective against toxic vapors
 - Do not drive through contaminated area
 - Do not eat, drink, or smoke near scene
 - Do not use flares (request barricades)
 - Keep contaminated persons isolated from others
 - Maintain a safe distance from scene (2000 ft. recommended)
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- Evacuate as necessary