

I. General Considerations

- A. All EMS personnel should have at least awareness level training.
 - B. Avoid the urge to rush in. Hazardous materials are insidious; their hazards may not be readily apparent. Your number one priority is your safety.
 - C. Never exceed your training or realistic capabilities on a hazardous materials response.
 - D. Transport patients only after they have been decontaminated according to a process determined by Incident Command.
 - E. Hazardous materials incidents may require the EMS provider to perform many different functions at the scene. These duties need to be considered and agreed to in advance through development of a community response plan.
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II. Procedures**EMS First On Scene**

- A. Until proven otherwise, all incidents are hazardous materials incidents.
- B. Approach the scene safely and cautiously.
 - 1. Approach from upwind and uphill (if possible).
 - 2. Observe from a distance.
- C. Identify if hazards are present.
- D. Secure the scene; deny entry to bystanders and untrained personnel.
- E. Establish incident command and identify a command post.
- F. Request additional assistance as needed.
- G. Update hospital(s) of any potential of contaminated patients arriving by non-EMS means.
- H. Do not enter any areas or zones unless you are properly trained and equipped to do so.
- I. Transfer incident command to the senior fire official for the jurisdiction when they arrive.

EMS Not First on Scene

- A. Report to the command post or staging area as directed.
- B. Obtain additional assistance (if required).