

Section 11: Oil Spills and Hazardous Materials Incidents

Introduction

This section addresses direction and control of emergency incidents where the general Incident Management Team structure may require modification or addition of positions and branches to coordinate particular incident-specific activities. The special incidents addressed in this section include oil spills and hazardous substance releases. Several other guidance documents are available to assist in managing an oil or hazardous substance release incident including the Alaska Incident Management System (AIMS) Guide as well as the U.S. Coast Guard's Field Operations Guide.

Oil Spill Incident Management

Due to the complex nature of oil spills, many different agencies with jurisdictional authority and statutorily mandated responsibilities will be involved. In Seward, the unified command structure for oil spill incidents includes a Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) from the U.S. Coast Guard (MSO/Anchorage Captain of the Port) or Environmental Protection Agency; a State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; a Local On-Scene Coordinator (LOSC), the Seward Emergency Preparedness Director (City Manager) or designee; and a Responsible Party On-Scene Coordinator (RPOSC), who represents the spiller. In most cases, the RPOSC becomes the Incident Commander, because under state and federal law the spiller is responsible and liable for containing, cleaning up and removing the spilled oil. However, in some cases, the Responsible Party may be unavailable or unable/unwilling to properly mitigate the spill effects, and in such cases, the IC will be either the FOSC or SOSC.

For a detailed discussion of the response structure for oil and hazardous substance response, refer to the "Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharge/Releases" (the Unified Plan), and the Cook Inlet Subarea Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

The Unified Plan and Subarea Plan shall be used together and in combination with this Emergency Operations Plan to guide oil spill response in Seward. This Emergency Operations Plan will be the primary guidance document only so long as an immediate public health risk exists, which would cause the LOSC to assume control of the incident and implement activities such as evacuation. Once oil spill response operations (i.e. containment, skimming, recovery) begin in earnest, the Unified Plan and Subarea Plan, along with the Responsible Party's oil spill contingency plan, become the guiding documents.

In an oil spill incident management there may be many agencies and jurisdictions involved, therefore the MAC Group may consist of additional agency representatives in addition to the City of Seward to provide input to the Unified Command.

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Oil Spill/Hazmat Release Organizational Chart (Unified Command)

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Hazardous Materials Incidents

The hazardous materials incident organization is designed to provide supervision and control for the essential functions common to most hazmat incidents. Hazardous materials releases require enhanced control of the tactical operations and personnel/equipment mobilization to provide a greater degree of safety and reduce the probability of spreading contaminants.

For most hazmat incidents, the primary response functions will be directed by the Hazardous Materials Group Supervisor, who reports directly to the Operations Section Chief. All personnel and resources involved in the hazmat response will be supervised by one of the functional leaders or the Hazardous Materials Group Supervisor. The three functional positions within the Hazardous Materials Group are:

- **Entry Leader:** The Entry Leader supervises all personnel operating in the Hot Zone (that area immediately around a hazardous materials release area where contamination does or could occur. Special protection is required for all personnel while in this zone.) The Entry Leader has the responsibility to direct all tactics and control the positions and functions of all personnel in the Hot Zone.
- **Site Access Control Leader:** The Site Access Control Leader controls all movement of personnel and equipment between the control zones and has the responsibility for isolating the Hot and Warm Zone and ensuring that citizens and personnel use proper access routes. (Warm Zone = that area between the Hot Zone and the Cold Zone which separates the contaminated area from the clean area and acts as a buffer to reduce contamination of the clean area. This zone contains the personnel decontamination station and may require a lesser degree of personnel protection than the Hot Zone.)
- **Decontamination Leader:** The Decontamination (Decon) Leader ensures all rescue victims, personnel, and equipment have been decontaminated before leaving the incident.

The Hazardous Materials Group Supervisor manages these three functional responsibilities, including all tactical operations carried out in the Hot Zone. The following principles apply to all hazmat incidents:

- All rescue operations will come under the Hazmat Group Supervisor's direction. Other tactical objectives that occur outside of the hazmat control zones (i.e. evacuation) are not the responsibility of the Hazmat Group Supervisor. These other tactical objectives will be carried out through the normal channels within the Kodiak IMT organization.
- In addition to the three primary functions, the Hazmat Group Supervisor may work with an Assistant Safety Officer, who must be Hazmat trained and present at the hazmat incident site.
- The Incident Safety Officer will have overall incident safety authority, with and Assistant Safety Officer working directly with the Hazmat Group Supervisor, as appropriate. The Group Supervisor may also supervise one or

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more Technical Specialists. Federal regulations require that a Safety Officer be appointed to all hazmat incidents.

- Tactical operations outside of the controlled zones, as well as many other hazmat incident functions will be managed by regular ICS positions. In most cases, Division/Group Supervisors will manage the array of tactical objectives such as evacuation, isolation, medical, traffic control, etc. Other needs will be met by activating Command and General Staff positions as appropriate and necessary.

The following pages contain hazmat incident organization diagrams, which demonstrate the range of functional positions that may be activated during a hazmat response. A relatively minor response may never progress beyond activation of an initial hazmat response organization, while a major hazardous materials incident may require a multi-branch incident organization. As with all emergencies, the Incident Commander, guided by the Unified Command, will be responsible for activating IMT positions during a hazardous materials incident response.

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Hazardous Materials Incident Initial Response

Initial hazmat response resources are managed by the Incident Commander, who may also initially handle all Command and General Staff functions until additional personnel are activated. Once activated, the Hazardous Materials Group Supervisor will assume responsibility for Entry, Site Access and Decontamination until personnel are assigned to these functions.

If Hazardous materials incident occurs in a fire service area, the fire chief will be the initial Incident Commander. If outside of a fire service area, the ranking Alaska State Trooper will be the initial Incident Commander. Command may be transferred upon activation of the Emergency Operations Center.

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Hazardous Materials Incident Reinforced Response

(3 to 15 Enforcement Units involved) Fire/Law

At this level of hazmat response, the two Incident Commanders (Fire/Law Enforcement) have joined to establish a Unified Command. They have established a Hazardous Materials Group to manage all activities around the control zones and have organized law enforcement units into a task force to isolate the operational area. The ICS have decided to establish a Planning Section, a Staging Area Manager, and a Safety Officer.

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Hazardous Materials Incident Multi-Division/Multi-Branch Response

At this level, the Unified Command/Incident Commander has activated most or all Command and General Staff positions and has established additional functional groups and a total of four branches in the Operations Section. Organization within Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections will be the same as for other incidents.

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