



Sheridan Police Department  
Policies and Procedures  
21.4 Replaces 501.6  
Chapter 21 – Emergency Operations  
Section 4 – Hazardous Materials

Date: January 1, 2013  
Revised: 03/17/2022

Signature:

In order to respond safely and effectively to hazardous material spills the Sheridan Police Department will train officers in basic skills and abilities necessary to identify and respond to the dangerous conditions created by hazardous material spills at the first responder level.

#### 21.4.1 Planning

- A. The Sheridan Police Department maintains the following manuals in preparation for hazardous material incidents and other disasters affecting our community. The originals are maintained in the office of the chief of police and a copy is available in the communications center.
  - 1. Sheridan Police Department Emergency Resource Manual – listing resources available to assist in emergency responses.
  - 2. VA Medical Center Crisis Plan.
  - 3. Sheridan County Airport Emergency Plan
  - 4. Sheridan County Emergency Operations Plan
- B. In the event of a hazardous material incident, on-duty supervisors are authorized to place a plan into operation based on materials in section 21.4.1.A. Appropriate notification must be made to the command staff, who will notify the city administrator and mayor as needed. The supervisor will be responsible to implement the plan until relieved by command staff. The local emergency management official should also be contacted for large incidents or any incident requiring a large-scale re-location.

#### 21.4.2 Response

- A. At the scene of any incident or accident where hazardous materials may have been exposed, officers shall request dispatch to summon the fire department hazardous materials team.
  - 1. Officers shall advise dispatch as soon as possible of the exact location of the hazardous materials incident and safe approach routes for emergency vehicles.
  - 2. Officers shall rescue injured persons at the hazardous materials site only if they are properly equipped. Officers shall not unduly risk contamination or injury.
- B. Pursuant to Wyoming Statute 35-9-156 (C) the Sheridan Police Department will have primary command authority over any unusual incident involving hazardous materials until it is determined the incident is not the result of a criminal act. Once that is established, the fire department shall assume authority and responsibility for emergency procedures.
- C. If officers discover any evidence of leaking liquid or vapor, they shall assume that an exposure has occurred with possible contamination of people or facilities and shall:
  - 1. Seal off the area until positive identification can be made by the fire department;

2. Assign units to establish a perimeter, setting up roadblocks or barricades as appropriate; and
3. Evacuate the area as necessary.
  - a. If the nature of the hazardous materials does not permit approaching the scene, keep at least three hundred (300) feet away.
  - b. If the hazardous materials incident involves radiological materials, keep at least two thousand (2000) feet away.
  - c. Do not enter the designated exclusion zone for any reason without appropriate protective equipment.
- D. IPAWS and Code Red may be used to assist in the evacuation of an area.
- E. Supervisors should consider creating a perimeter, establishing a command post, evacuating the area, and steps to limit further contamination as appropriate. The on-scene supervisor shall notify appropriate command personnel as required in section 16.2.1.
- F. The accident scene should be approached upwind if possible. If radiological materials are involved, no approach should be made. Await fire department personnel or HAZMAT teams who have special monitoring equipment.
  1. Note that communicable disease protective equipment or leather gloves provide little or no protection from hazardous materials.
  2. Note that personnel may not be able to recognize hazardous materials immediately, although they are present. Some hazardous gasses are invisible and odorless.
- G. Normal accident investigation procedures shall be suspended until the on-scene authority has given appropriate clearance, whereupon the accident shall be investigated and reported.

#### **21.4.3 Identification of Hazardous Materials**

- A. Placards

Placards are displayed at the front, rear, and on both sides of all vehicles (including rail cars) hauling hazardous materials; however, placards are sometimes either not displayed or have misidentified the cargo. Some placards are made of paper which may have burned before the officer's arrival.

  1. Red placards indicate flammable materials.
  2. Rust placards indicate explosive materials.
  3. White placards indicate poisonous materials.
  4. White/black placards indicate corrosive materials.
- B. Driver

When the accident involves a truck, the driver may be able to supply information about the load transported; however, the driver is not required to know a great deal about cargo or emergency measures for handling it except for explosives. In case of explosives, the driver is required to have in possession, and be familiar with, documents containing procedures to be followed in the event of accident.
- C. Shipping papers
  1. Where the hazardous material is transported by truck, the driver is required to have a copy of the shipping papers which show the name of the materials, classification, and quantity. By using these papers and the Wyoming Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook, the officer can identify the hazard associated with the material and ways of handling it. Officers shall record the name of the materials, classification information, and quantity.

2. Where the hazardous material is transported by rail, the shipping papers will be located in the engine and will have attached to them instructions for handling all hazardous materials on the train. Additionally, a manifest is located in the engine listing each car on the train and its contents in order from the engine back. If the conductor is not available or incapacitated when emergency personnel arrive, officers shall obtain the manifest from the engine compartment.
- D. MSD sheets
- To supplement the placard system, many shippers of chemicals provide the drivers with materials handling safety and data sheets (MSD Sheets) which provide emergency information. Although MSD sheets are subject only to voluntary use, the officer shall ask the driver for them.
- E. Officers have access to the Wyoming Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook on hazardous materials which contains identifying information on chemical products, first-responder hazards, and specific countermeasures.

#### **21.4.4. Evacuation**

- A. When the possibility of an evacuation of residents exists, the incident commander shall consider:
1. Manpower requirements;
  2. The method of notifying persons to be evacuated (i.e., door to door, PA system, use of local radio stations, IPAWS, Code Red, social media etc.);
  3. The size of the area and number of people living there to be evacuated;
  4. Use of mass transportation to move evacuated persons;
  5. Housing of evacuated persons, where possible, in public schools, the YMCA or churches;
  6. Security of evacuated areas to prevent looting, and premature return (the fire chief shall make the decision when it is appropriate for people to return home).
- B. The on-duty supervisor shall consult with the fire chief and the HAZMAT coordinator on any decision to evacuate an area. The supervisor shall effect the evacuation upon order of the fire chief. In the event of evacuation, the supervisor shall establish a command post, ensuring that the following tasks are undertaken:
1. Establish an emergency communications link with appropriate authorities;
  2. Evaluate the size of the area and number of people to be evacuated;
  3. Assign personnel and medium to notify people

#### **21.4.5 Key Contact Agencies**

- A. Key contact agencies are available for evaluation and assistance in the handling of hazardous material incidents. Every effort shall be made to obtain the following information before contacting these agencies:
1. Location of the incident or accident;
  2. Nature and type of hazardous material involved, if known;
  3. Shipper (if known) of hazardous material;
  4. The color and number of any labels on the carrier or cargo;
  5. Type of environment (i.e. - residential, business, etc.);
  6. Size of the container and estimated amount of material discharged or leaked;

7. If rail, location of hazardous material car counted from the head of the train, car number, and description of car (i.e., tank car, box car, etc.); and
  8. The serial number of any aircraft, if involved.
- B. Depending on the hazardous materials involved, one or more of the following agencies may be contacted:
1. Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTREC), 800-424-9300
  2. The National Response Center is the sole federal point of contact for oil and chemical spills, 800-424-8802
  3. Sheridan County Emergency Management, 307-675-2550
  4. Sheridan County Public Health, 307-672-5169
  5. Wyoming Office of Homeland security, 307-777-4663 or 307-777-4321
  6. Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, 307-777-7781

#### **21.4.6 Clandestine Labs**

- A. Clandestine laboratories producing illicit drugs are frequently operated with little or no safety precautions. Immediate dangers include fire, explosion, inhalation of harmful fumes, and skin contact with dangerous chemicals. Exposure to chemicals found in such laboratories can cause damaging effects to the body including permanent injury and/or death.
- B. When officers encounter a suspected clandestine laboratory and circumstances permit, they shall immediately exit, secure the scene, and contact a supervisor. Additionally, the member will:
1. Secure possible suspects, keeping in mind possible contamination of the suspects and officers. Time spent in a laboratory during an arrest should be as brief as possible. Members in or around suspected laboratories should be alert to the potential results of a firearm being discharged. Additional precautions may be necessary in handling and transporting suspects depending upon their level of contamination and/or the type of contaminants involved.
  2. Seek medical attention, if needed.
- C. The supervisor will respond to the scene, assume the role of the incident commander and:
1. Evaluate whether an area evacuation is required;
  2. Evaluate the need for fire and/or ambulance services;
  3. Evaluate the need for additional personnel; and,
  4. Notify the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation.
- D. Until trained personnel arrive and take control of a suspected clandestine laboratory, officers should take general precautions including:
1. Maintain a safe distance from the suspected laboratory and avoid being downwind and downgrade from the area;
  2. Never attempt to smell, taste, or touch chemicals or unknown substances from a suspected clandestine laboratory to try to identify them;
  3. Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, or chewing gum or tobacco and from placing their hands to their mouth or face;
  4. Wash their hands, face, and exposed skin upon leaving the area of the clandestine laboratory; and
  5. Secure and/or isolate the structure or vehicle involved and the immediate area to provide the maximum protection practicable to persons in the area.

- E. Department personnel shall relinquish control of the scene to Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation personnel upon their arrival.