

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 21 September 2021

Response Date: 22 September 2021

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked for resources related to the roles and responsibilities that hospitals and fire departments have in managing hazardous materials decontamination incidents.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team conducted a search of existing ASPR TRACIE resources, namely the [Hospital Patient Decontamination](#) and [Pre-Hospital Patient Decontamination](#) Topic Collections. We also conducted a search online for relevant materials.

I. Select Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2001). [Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents \(MHMIs\), Version 2001](#).

This three-volume set of guidance documents and a video provide recommendations for on-scene and hospital medical management for patients exposed to hazardous materials. **NOTE:** Part I, “Systems Approach to Planning,” provides an overview of planning strategies for emergency medical service (EMS) personnel and their partners. The additional content also includes general information on specific response measures.

Cibulsky, S., Kirk, M., Ignacio, J., et al. (2014). [Patient Decontamination in a Mass Chemical Exposure Incident: National Planning Guidance for Communities](#).

This guidance can help emergency planners prepare for mass patient decontamination from initial assessment to evaluation of process effectiveness. The authors emphasize the importance of communication and coordination between on-scene and healthcare facility-based staff. **NOTE:** Section 5 “System-Wide Coordination of Patient Decontamination” outlines best practices and considerations specific to roles and responsibilities including communication and coordination considerations (starting on page. 64).

Department of Defense, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. (2013). [Guidelines for Mass Casualty Decontamination During a HAZMAT/Weapon of Mass Destruction Incident, Volumes I and II](#).

These guidelines can be tailored by first responders and emergency planners responsible for designing mass casualty decontamination plans following a hazardous material or weapons of mass destruction attack. **NOTE:** Appendix A of this document, “Quick Reference Checklist for Mass Casualty Decontamination” summarizes actions specific to

an incident commander and first responders during a large-scale decontamination response (starting on page. 19).

Department of Energy Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program. (2007). [Hazardous Materials Incident Response Procedure](#).

This document provides guidance for response to transportation incidents involving radioactive materials. **NOTE:** Section 3.0 and Section 11 of this document provide guidance on the roles and responsibilities and planning/coordination among responders to a hazardous materials incident.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (n.d.). [An Introduction to Hazardous Materials: Preparing for Hazardous Materials Incident](#). (Accessed 9/22/2021.)

This document addresses the importance of community preparedness to hazardous material incidents. **NOTE:** Beginning on page. 5-5, this document outlines the role of first responders (fire fighter, law enforcement, etc.) during a hazardous materials response.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). (2005). [Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Victims from Mass Casualty Incidents Involving the Release of Hazardous Substances](#).

This document shares best practices for hospitals to enhance employee protection and training as part of emergency planning for mass casualty incidents involving hazardous substances. **NOTE:** The “Preparedness” section (starting on page. 30), includes specific details for identifying a hospital’s role within the community, how to coordinate emergency plans with other organizations (e.g., fire departments), and how to update/develop integrated teams that include all relevant response personnel.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2009). [Best Practices for Protecting EMS Responders during Treatment and Transport of Victims of Hazardous Substance Releases](#).

This document contains guidance for the emergency medical response to a hazardous material incident. It includes information on the role of responders in the community, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's response principles, and practical recommendations and best practices on a variety of topics, including pre-transport patient decontamination. **NOTE:** The section “Defining the EMS Responder Role in Community Response: Factors to Evaluate, Contacts, Information Sources and Special Considerations” (starting on pg. 12), outlines the roles, responsibilities, and expectations relevant to First Responders during a hazardous materials incident.