



OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

*REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIAL
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS*

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Number: T-010

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October 27, 1993**

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OSFM Approved:

Signature on file at OSFM _____ Date _____

Nancy J. Orr, State Fire Marshal

Signature on file at OSFM _____ Date _____

Susan J. Otjen, Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Safety Program

OBJECTIVE: To Provide Guidance for Promoting Safe Working Conditions and Surveillance of the Teams.

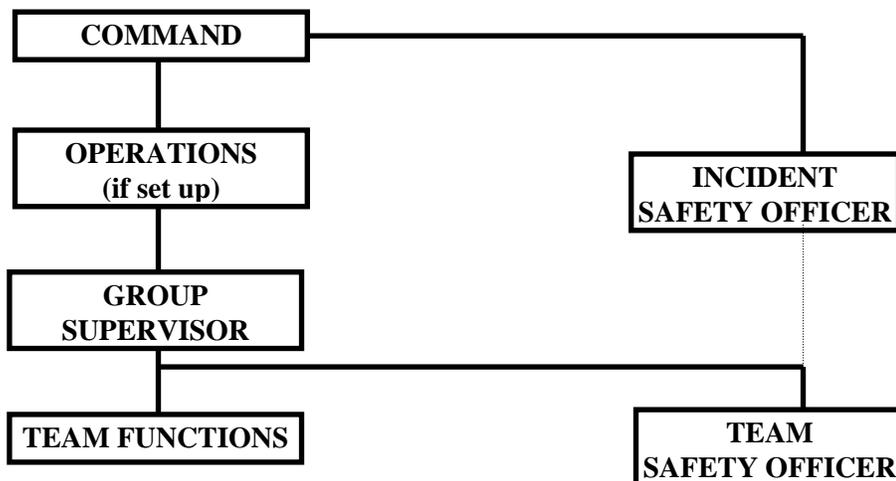
I. SCOPE

This guideline sets forth a written safety and health program for members of Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams (HMERT). The program is designed to identify, evaluate, and control safety and health hazards to which team members may be exposed.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organizational structure for the operation of the HMERT at an incident shall follow the format of NIMS Incident Command System for the purpose of establishing a chain of command from supervisor through all other personnel needed to mitigate a hazardous materials incident.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



III. WORKPLAN FOR INCIDENT OPERATIONS

A. Emergency Operations

For specifics addressing the tasks and objectives of emergency operations at hazardous materials incidents refer to *Standard Operating Guidelines* relating to:

1. Mitigation Methods
2. Decontamination Procedures
3. Safety
4. Personal Protective Equipment
5. Site Plans

B. Response Limitations

1. HMERT members shall not perform any duties that exceed their training, equipment capabilities, or scope of practice.

C. Emergency Operations or Medical Monitoring During Training

Exposure records, included in the HazMat Incident Report form, shall be completely filled out whenever an exposure or a potential exposure to a hazardous substance may occur. The vital signs portion of the exposure report shall be completed prior to attempting entry, and after entry is completed.

Vital signs should also be taken whenever level A or B Chemical Clothing is used in training activities.

D. Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be selected, used, and maintained in accordance with State Fire Marshal Guideline SOG-T008.

IV. SITE MONITORING DURING ENTRY

Initial and intermittent monitoring shall be performed where there may be a question of employee exposure to hazardous concentrations of hazardous substances in order to assure proper selection of work practices and PPE so that employees are not exposed to levels which exceed permissible exposure limits. The results of the monitoring shall be recorded on the report form.

V. SAFETY COMMITTEE

Each contractor shall establish a safety committee as required by OSHA regulations. If a contractor's existing safety committee meets the requirements of federal and state regulations, it will be considered acceptable to the State Fire Marshal.