

## Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Training

### 605.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish training that will meet state requirements regarding the Fresno County Fire Protection District Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) response program. This policy identifies the level of training members must receive, when additional or supplemental training is required and the training records required to meet the provisions of the code (8 CCR 5192).

### 605.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno County Fire Protection District that any member whose duties include a role in the HAZMAT response program shall receive training to the level in which they are expected to operate in a HAZMAT environment or at an incident involving hazardous materials. Members shall be trained by the District to the California Hazardous Substances Incident Response Training and Education Program standards (Government Code § 8574.19).

### 605.3 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

HAZMAT training shall be based on the duties and functions to be performed by each member. The skill and knowledge levels required for all new members shall be conveyed to them through training before they are permitted to take part in actual emergency operations on an incident. Any member who participates or is expected to participate in an emergency response involving hazardous materials shall objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas (8 CCR 5192(q)(6)).

The California Office of Emergency Services manages the standardized statewide HAZMAT training at the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) (Government Code § 8574.20).

#### 605.3.1 FIRST RESPONDER AWARENESS

First responder awareness level training should be provided to all individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the release. A member with this level of training should take no further action beyond notifying the authorities of the release.

#### 605.3.2 HAZMAT FIRST RESPONDER OPERATIONS (FRO)

First responder operations (FRO) level training should be provided for individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property or the environment from the effects of the release. Members with this level of training can respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading and prevent exposures.

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#### 605.3.3 HAZMAT TECHNICIAN

HAZMAT technician level training should be provided to all individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances for the purpose of stopping the release. A member with this level of training would assume a more aggressive role by approaching the point of release in order to plug, patch, or otherwise stop the release of a hazardous substance.

#### 605.3.4 HAZMAT SPECIALIST

HAZMAT specialist level training should be provided to all individuals who respond with, and provide support to, HAZMAT technicians. A member with this level of training has a more directed or specific knowledge of the various hazardous substances requiring containment. A HAZMAT specialist may also act as a site liaison to government authorities regarding site activities.

#### 605.3.5 HAZMAT INCIDENT COMMANDER

HAZMAT Incident Commander level training should be provided to all individuals who could be responsible for all decisions relating to the management of a HAZMAT incident.

#### 605.3.6 TREATMENT, STORAGE, AND DISPOSAL (TSD) FACILITIES

Employers conducting operations at treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities shall provide and implement the training programs specified below (8 CCR 5192(p)):

- (a) **New employees** - The employer shall develop and implement a training program, which is part of the employer's safety and health program, for employees exposed to health hazards or hazardous substances at TSD operations to enable employees to perform their assigned duties and functions in a safe and healthful manner so as not to endanger themselves or other employees. The initial training shall be for 24 hours and refresher training shall be for eight hours annually. Employees who have received the initial training required by this subsection shall be given a written certificate attesting that they have successfully completed the necessary training.
- (b) **Current employees** - Employers who can show by an employee's previous work experience and/or training that the employee has had training equivalent to the initial training required by 8 CCR 5192(p)(7)(B), shall be considered as meeting the initial training requirements of 8 CCR 5192(p)(7)(B) with respect to that employee. Equivalent training includes the training that existing employees may have already received from actual site work experience. Current employees shall receive eight hours of refresher training annually.
- (c) **Trainers** - Trainers who teach initial training shall have satisfactorily completed a training course for teaching the subjects they are expected to teach, or they shall have the academic credentials and instruction experience necessary to demonstrate a good command of the subject matter of the courses and competent instructional skills.

#### 605.3.7 HAZMAT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

An emergency response plan shall be developed and implemented to handle anticipated emergencies prior to the commencement of emergency response operations. The plan shall

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be in writing and available for inspection and copying by employees, their representatives, and division personnel. Employers who will evacuate their employees from the danger area when an emergency occurs, and who do not permit any of their employees to assist in handling the emergency, are exempt from the requirements of 8 CCR 5192(q) if they provide an emergency action plan in accordance with 8 CCR 3220 (8 CCR 5192(q)(1)).

#### **605.3.8 HAZMAT ANNUAL REFRESHER TRAINING**

Members who receive an initial level of training in accordance with this policy shall receive annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies, or shall demonstrate competency in those areas at least yearly.

#### **605.4 BASELINE PHYSICAL FOR HAZMAT TEAM MEMBERS**

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires medical examinations and consultations be made available to members of HAZMAT teams within prescribed time periods. All members of a designated HAZMAT team shall receive medical examinations and consultations on the following schedules (29 CFR 1910.120(b)(1)(ii)(E), 8 CCR 5192(q)(9)(A) and 8 CCR 5192(f) et seq.):

- (a) Prior to assignment
- (b) At least once every 12 months
- (c) At termination of employment or reassignment to duties not covered by this policy
- (d) As soon as possible upon notification that the employee has developed signs or symptoms indicating possible overexposure to hazardous substances or health hazards
- (e) As soon as possible upon notification that the employee has been injured or exposed above the permissible exposure limits or published exposure levels in an emergency situation.

The frequency of a member's examinations may be increased if the examining physician determines that it is medically necessary. Medical examinations should include medical and work history. Emphasis should be placed on any symptoms related to the handling of, or exposure to, hazardous substances or health hazards. Medical examinations should address fitness for duty, especially as it pertains to wearing personal protective equipment under conditions that may be encountered on duty. The content of medical examinations should be made available to the employee as determined by the attending physician.

#### **605.4.1 HAZMAT MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE FOLLOWING EXPOSURE**

Members of an organized and designated HAZMAT team and HAZMAT specialists shall receive a baseline physical examination and be provided with medical surveillance (8 CCR 5192(q)(9)(A) and 8 CCR 5192(f) et seq.).

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Any emergency response member who exhibits signs or symptoms which may have resulted from exposure to hazardous substances during the course of an emergency incident, either immediately or subsequently, shall be provided with medical consultation (8 CCR 5192 (q)(9)(B)).

Accurate records of the medical surveillance required by this policy shall be retained for the duration of the employee's employment plus 30 years. This record shall contain at least the following information (8 CCR 3204(d) et seq.):

- (a) The name and Social Security number of the employee.
- (b) The physician's written opinions, recommended limitations and results of examinations and tests.
- (c) Any employee medical complaints related to exposure to hazardous substances.
- (d) A copy of the information provided to the physician by the department, with the exception of district policies and OSHA standards.

### **605.5 TRAINING RECORDS**

The Training Chief shall be responsible for maintaining records of all HAZMAT training provided to members. Records should include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Dates of the training sessions
- (b) A list of the topics or a summary of the content of the training sessions
  1. Specific content required by regulation covered
  2. Manufacturer's recommendations (as applicable)
  3. Manufacturer's operations/service/maintenance manuals (as applicable)
- (c) The names or other identifiers and job titles of all members who received the training.
- (d) The names, certificate numbers and qualifications of persons conducting the training
- (e) Demonstration that learning took place (e.g., evaluation, quiz, test)

The Training Chief should maintain the training records in accordance with established records retention schedules.