

Yamhill Fire Protection District

District Policies, Procedures, & SOG's

MISSION

*Yamhill Fire Protection District is dedicated to
serve and protect our community*

District Procedure

OPERATIONS

OPS-GEN – 413.1

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Emergency Decontamination Procedures

Issued: December 9, 2014

Purpose: To outline the procedures for decontamination following a confirmed or suspected exposure to hazardous materials.

References: NFPA 471 9.2.3 – 9.4.4
NFPA 1561
OSHA 1910.12(k)
IFSTA Hazardous Materials For First Responders, (Current Edition)
Yamhill Fire Protection District Policies & Procedures

Definitions:

Cold Zone: The safe area around a hazardous material incident where PPE is not necessary.

Decontamination: The removal of contaminants from a person or equipment.

Hot Zone: The contaminated area at a hazardous materials incident.

Levels of Decontamination: A ranking system based on the materials involved and amount of exposure.

Warm Zone: The area between the hot zone and the cold zone. Used to support workers in the hot zone and to decontaminate personnel and equipment exiting the contaminated area.

Procedure:

General:

Decontamination is an essential part of emergency response to an incident involving a known or suspected hazardous material. The primary objective of decontamination is to avoid contaminating anyone or anything beyond the hot zone. When in doubt about contamination, isolate and decontaminate all involved personnel and equipment.

The decision to implement all or part of a decontamination procedure should be based on several factors. The incident commander (IC) should evaluate the situation, use all available means to identify the materials involved, and assess the level of risk. The IC should then follow the "Levels of Decontamination" to determine the appropriate response.

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Safety:

Prior to conducting decontamination procedures, the IC should implement the Incident Command System. When hazardous material operations are being conducted using personnel trained at the haz-mat technician level (i.e. TVF&R Haz-Mat), the incident safety officer shall appoint a technical safety officer (TSO) who meets the requirements of NFPA 472 *Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents*. In most cases, the TSO position should be assigned to a member of the responding haz-mat team.

All personnel operating on scene must be tracked using the Passport Accountability System.

If the decontamination procedure involves the use of self-contained breathing apparatus, then a Rapid Intervention Team must be assigned to stand-by. Personnel assigned to this team **msut** be trained and equipped to at least the same level as those conducting the decontamination.

Levels of Decontamination:

Decontamination is generally categorized in levels ranked one through three.

Level 1:

The lowest level of decontamination. Used after operations involving Class 'A' fires, motor vehicle accidents, and small fuel spills. Personnel may undertake level 1 decontamination procedures at the IC's discretion.

Level 2:

When contamination by a known, or suspected, hazardous material has occurred but no skin contact or irritation is evident. Personnel should isolate the affected individuals, and contact expert assistance prior to conducting decontamination procedures. Assistance can be obtained from OERS, Poison Control, Chemtrec, or a regional Haz-Mat team.

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Level 3:

Contamination by a known hazardous material has occurred, and signs of skin and/or respiratory contact or irritation are evident. Personnel should isolate the affected individuals, and contact expert assistance. Immediate gross decontamination should be started with water while a formal decontamination area is established.

Decontamination Operations:

Level 1:

Personnel conducting the decontamination should don structural PPE for splash protection. Face shields or goggles should be used to protect the eyes, SCBA is not necessary. Contaminated areas should be flushed with a gentle water spray for one minute or until the materials are removed. Soap and soft brushes may also be used if desired. Containment of runoff water is not required.

Level 2:

Personnel should contact expert assistance prior to beginning decontamination operations. Follow advice given for specific operational procedures and PPE required. Containment of runoff water is normally required.

Level 3:

Personnel should don full structural PPE with hoods and gloves. SCBA must be worn. Wrists and ankles should be sealed with duct tape. A booster or 1.75" hose line is used to immediately flush the contaminated individual until a formal decontamination area is established. Personnel should try to avoid touching the individual or their clothing until the material has been identified. Efforts should be made to contain the runoff water, but they should not delay decontamination.

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Decontamination Area Location & Equipment:

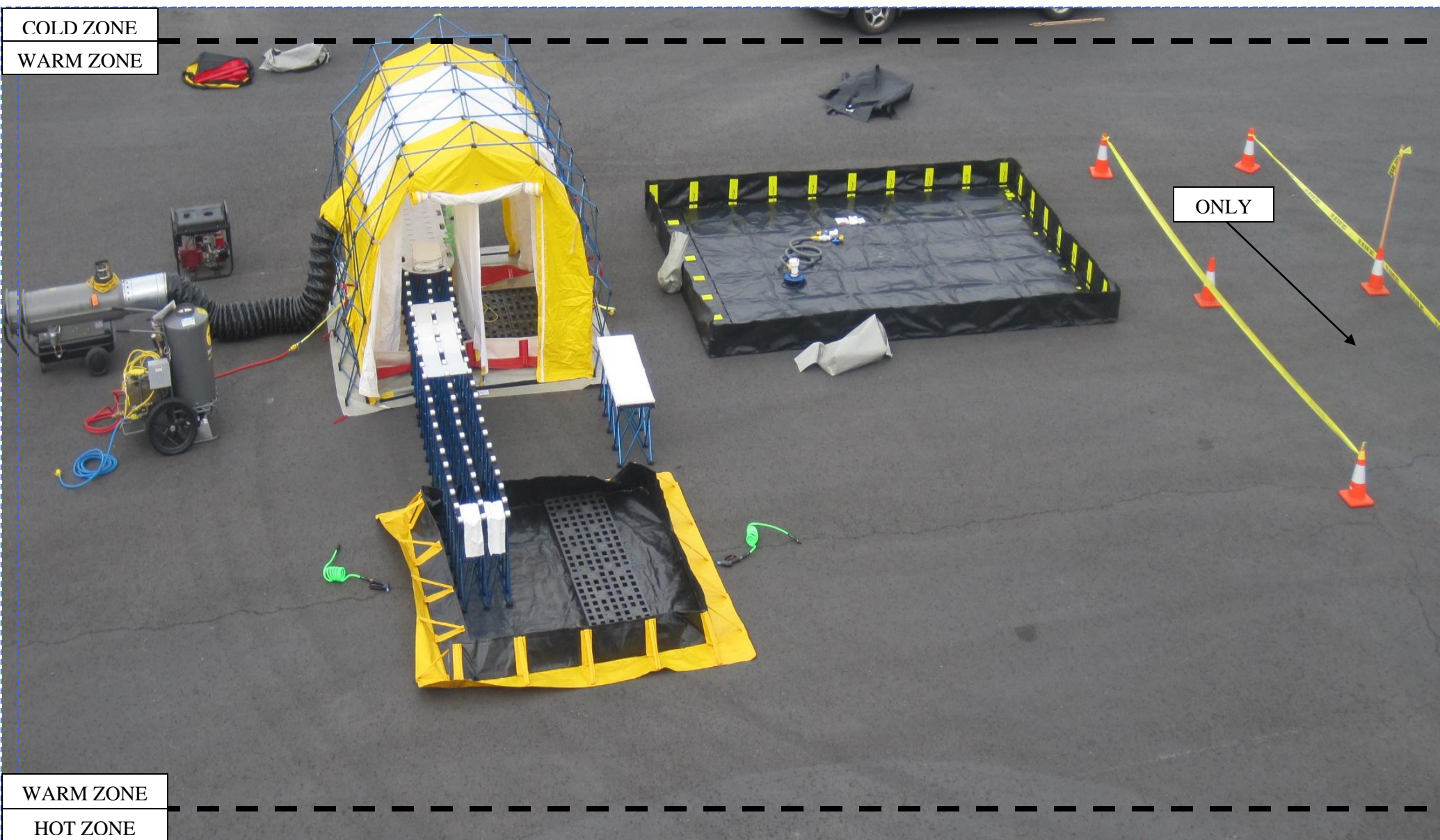
When establishing a decontamination location, consider the following:

- Try to pick a level area that is upwind and uphill from the hot zone
- Paved or concrete areas are preferred over grass
- Follow expert advice regarding distance from the incident
- Establish a decontamination corridor with the entrance at the edge of the hot zone and the exit at the edge of the cold zone
- Mark the corridor using cones and fire line tape
- Plug, dam, or otherwise block drains in the area to control runoff
- Use shelters or tarps to provide for privacy, in large incidents consider separate male & female corridors

If decontamination equipment is needed, IC will have Haz-Mat 21 from Newberg Fire dispatched along with the regional Haz-Mat Team from TVF&R.

COLD ZONE
WARM ZONE

WARM ZONE
HOT ZONE



Basic Scene Setup

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Post-Decontamination Operations:

Personnel conducting decontamination should decontaminate themselves before leaving the corridor. Once finished, they should receive a medical evaluation that includes a physical exam and vital signs.

Patients **MUST** be decontaminated prior to transport by ground or air. The medical branch officer should contact the receiving hospitals as soon as possible and advise them of the situation. Through documentation should be made of all decontamination measures provided, and the information passed on to the receiving facility. Patients should be closely monitored for hypothermia during and after the decontamination process.

The resources contacted for expert assistance will provide information on clean up and disposal. In most cases, a private contractor will provide this service. The IC should make arrangements for security of the area until the clean up agent arrives. An inventory should be taken of all equipment left on scene, and a chain of custody established to track it. Bags containing personal items should be labeled with a name and phone number.

Documentation:

The IC should thoroughly document all aspects of the incident and decontamination operation. Note the hazardous material involved, resources contacted for assistance, and any specific information given.