



# **ACTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

DEPARTMENT MANUAL; P&P: Administration		
POLICY & PROCEDURE # 7.04	DATE OF ISSUE: 10/10/2019	EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/17/2019
SUBJECT: HAZMAT AWARENESS	ISSUING AUTHORITY: Chief Richard Burrows	
REFERENCE(S): Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission # 46.3.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X___NEW     ___AMENDS     ___RESCINDS	

The Acton Police Department shall provide annual awareness level training for events that involve hazardous materials. Said training for veteran officers shall be conducted and documented using PMAM for policy reviews. New officers will be issued this policy through PMAM, and it will be discussed with the new officer's FTO. Training may also take place in conjunction with the Department's annual All Hazards Plan Training. **[46.3.4]**

The training shall include:

- SIGNS
- RESPONSE
- REPORTING

## **I. SIGNS**

Officers must be vigilant to look for signs of possible hazardous material events. The more frequent sign would be a motor vehicle accident involving vehicles transporting hazardous materials. However, there may be other occurrences that are not as obvious. These include, but are not limited to:

- Persons falling unconscious for no apparent reason;
- Persons having difficulty breathing or coughing when not in an area of smoke;
- Multiple persons becoming ill with similar signs & symptoms; and/or
- Unknown skin lesions on numerous persons.

## **II. RESPONSE**

### **Officer Responsibilities**

When officers believe they have come upon a possible hazardous material event they shall perform the following:

- Notify the supervisor;

- Keep a safe distance from the affected area;
- Immediately use any and all universal precautions; and
- Set up a safe perimeter and utilize responding officers to keep the perimeter from being breached by non-emergency personnel.

### **Supervisor Responsibilities**

- Notify the next supervisor up the chain of command;
- Notify all necessary departments (Fire Department, Highway Department, School Departments, and others if appropriate);
- Initiate ICS; and
- Coordinate in conjunction with the Department's All Hazards Plan and the town of Acton's Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

### **Officer Contamination**

Officers exposed to, or suspect of being exposed to, chemical/biological agent(s):

- A. Will remove all contaminated clothing or equipment;
- B. Upon arrival of the Fire Department / HAZMAT, he/she will be directed through decontamination procedures as necessary;
- C. EMS will conduct medical evaluations of exposed officers and further monitoring as needed;
- D. Complete a Massachusetts Department of Public Health Unprotected Exposure Form as soon as practicable.

Officers will not use equipment and/or vehicles that have been contaminated.

## **III. REPORTING**

- Reports shall be filed by the initial officer and supervisor. The reports shall include their observations and responses to the event. Said reports shall be filed, as soon as safely possible, after the notification of the event.
- An after-action report shall be completed by the Patrol Division Commander as a result of the incident.

## **HAZMAT AWARENESS INFORMATION**

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**History: Manual I, Section III**