

# Hamden Police Department General Orders

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**Policy Number:** 028-005

**Effective Date:** August 01, 2005

**Section:** General Operating  
Procedures.

**Rescinds:**

**Title:** Handling Hazardous Material  
Incidents.

**Approved By:**

**Approval Date:**

## PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for members of the Hamden Police Department for the safe control and efficient management of hazardous material incidents or toxic spills.

## POLICY

The Hamden Police Department will respond to all reports of Hazardous Material Incidents. The department will do all that is necessary to provide for the safety of the public and the speedy removal of the danger

## Definition of Hazardous Materials

1. Hazardous materials are materials that are dangerous by reason of their toxicity or potential for violent reaction (fire or explosion). They include all of the following:

- a. Flammable liquid
- b. Flammable solid
- c. Oxidizing substance
- d. Corrosive liquid
- e. Poison substance
- f. Explosives
- g. Radioactive substance

## Procedures

A. Spills or leaks.

1. Materials that have spilled or leaked and pose a immediate threat. Officers should take precautions to prevent contamination of themselves or others. The Fire Department will be notified to respond.

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2. A supervisor will also respond and take command of the police functions and coordinate activities with the Fire Chief or other fire officer.
3. As soon as possible the quantity and type of substances involved should be determined.
4. Once the substance has been identified the Emergency Guidebook should be consulted to determine what evacuations are necessary. These books are in each cruiser and are also carried by Fire Apparatus.
5. If an evacuation of an area is necessary, the area to be evacuated will be by the most expeditious manner by officers of this department who may be supplemented by the Hamden firefighters or Hamden Office of Emergency Management (OEM).
6. Once the Fire Department is on scene, the Fire Chief or Commanding Fire Officer will have command of the scene and members of this department will assist in whatever way possible.

### **B. Incidents not involving spills or leaks.**

1. In responding to incidents of hazardous material where no spill or leak has taken place refer to a, b, c, and e noted above.
2. If there appears that no leak or spill will occur the supervisor on scene and the Fire Dept. Incident Commander should jointly decide on the best course of action to be taken.
3. The appropriate State Agencies will be notified of the incident immediately.
4. It will be the responsibility of the Fire Department to provide for handling and/or storage of hazardous materials when necessary.

### **C. General Precautions.**

1. Whenever approaching an accident that might involve hazardous materials, always approach from upwind/uphill side of the scene.
2. Move and keep all persons away from the incident. Only authorized personnel should be on scene.
3. Do not walk into, or touch ANY spilled material.

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4. Avoid inhaling fumes, smoke, or vapors even if no hazardous materials are suspected.
5. Do not assume that gases or vapors are harmless because of the lack of smell.

### D. General Information.

1. The best source of immediate information regarding the cargo will be the driver and the Bill of Lading for the cargo.
2. If the cargo contains regulated materials added information on the cargo and handling of it may be obtained from:
  - a. CHEMTREC 1-800-424-9300 (24 hours)