Series 200 Operations	Effective Date 09/07/2022	Review Date Three Years	Directive Number **205.7**
Chapter 205 - Emergency Procedures			
Reviewing Office Bomb Squad			☐ **New Directive** ☒ **Revised** **Revisions in *italics***
References			

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROCEDURES

205.7 - 1 PURPOSE

This purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for police response when dealing with hazardous materials incidents. A hazardous material is any substance capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property.

205.7 - 2 POLICY

The Incident Command System (ICS) shall be implemented in response to all hazardous materials incidents. Handling and disposal of certain materials requires trained experts and specialized equipment. Most members of the Detroit Police Department (DPD) do not possess the necessary safety equipment or expertise to permit direct contact with hazardous materials. There are a limited number of DPD personnel (Bomb Squad, SRT, Homeland Security) who have training to conduct defensive and offensive HAZMAT operations. Therefore, members are to take appropriate measures to avoid exposure to hazardous materials and shall not attempt to contain, cleanup, or dispose of hazardous materials. Members should remember the "hands-off" approach when responding to hazardous material incidents. This "hands-off" action must be initiated and maintained to ensure the safety of responding members.

205.7 - 3 Approach

Approach the site with caution; utilize basic hazardous material incident safety measures. Approach the site from uphill, upwind, or upstream. Avoid inhalation or contact with fumes, smoke, or vapors. Do not assume that the smoke, fumes, or vapors are not harmful because they have not odor. Eye contamination, inhalation, and skin absorption of hazardous materials are the most common and serious threats to safety. Presume the material is hazardous until advised otherwise by the knowledgeable authority and do not walk into or touch the material(s). *Members should be cautious of situations involving suicide through the use of toxic gases* using a variety of methods, some of which are potentially very dangerous to first responders. Possible indicators of "suicide by gas" are list below

a. Unresponsive persons in a small, confined areas such as a vehicle;

b. Presence of chemicals such as acids or pesticides;
c. Pressured gas cylinders, plastic bags, or hoods on or near the victim; and
d. Notes or signs left by the victim warning of dangerous gas and/or directing persons to call the fire department before opening a door or entering the area. In the event DPD personnel encounter or are dispatched to this type of incident, they shall immediately request emergency assistance from the Detroit Fire Department before entering a possible HAZMAT area.

205.7 - 4 Identify

If possible, identify the materials involved from a safe distance. Use all available reference sources. Observe for a Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) warning placard or label or other sign or marking on the building, cargo tank, vessel, aircraft, rail car or vehicle that might assist in identifying the involved hazardous material. Locate either the name of the material or the 4-digit ID number. The name or ID number can be referenced in the D.O.T. North American Emergency Response Guidebook for additional information.

205.7 - 5 Interview

If possible and it is safe to do so, interview the owner, driver, or other authoritative source(s) who may have knowledge of the hazardous material. Examine shipping documents, bills of laden, or Material Safety Data Sheets (M.S.D.S.) that may identify the hazardous material. When transporting hazardous materials, shipping documents must be kept in the following areas:

a. In the cab of the motor vehicle or with the driver/operator;
b. In the possession of a train crewmember;
c. In a holder on the bridge of a vessel; or
d. In an aircraft pilot's possession.

205.7 - 6 Communicate

Communicate all information that can be safely obtained to the zone dispatcher. Provide the dispatcher with the chemical name, number of words in the name, and spelling of the chemical name (letter by letter). Example: "First word ethanol spelled E-T-H-A-N-O-L, second word ethanol spelled E-T-H-A-N-A-L." Request that the dispatcher spell back the chemical name for verification of an accurate transmission. Describe weather status and wind direction, as well as the condition of the hazardous material (e.g. stable, leaking, burning, etc.). Provide the dispatcher with a general description of the area impacted by the incident (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, environmentally sensitive, etc.).

205.7 - 7 Incident Commander's Duties

1. Generally, the Detroit Fire Department will be the lead agency during a hazardous material incident. However, responding personnel in order of accession will act as the Incident Commander until such time as a ranking official from the Fire Department

assumes command. Thereafter, the department members will perform law enforcement duties under the control of the sworn supervisor who shall remain available for direction by the ranking fire department incident commander.

2. Additional duties at a hazardous material incident include the following:

   a. Reroute traffic if required and direct all nonessential personnel and the general public away from the immediate incident area;
   b. Coordinate the evacuation of the immediate site (if required), but only if the evacuation can be accomplished without exposing police department personnel to the hazardous material; and
   c. Keep ignition sources (e.g. radios, vehicles, flares, open flames, etc.) away from the hazardous material.

201.1 - 7.1 Emergency Zone Designation

1. Once the ranking fire official assumes the duties of incident commander, they will further define the geographic area of the emergency zone by subdividing it into three (3) smaller zones according to the level of exposure risk to personnel. Emergency zones are designated as follows:

   a. **Hot Zone**: Poses immediate threat to persons;
   b. **Warm Zone**: Area used to decontaminate persons coming out of the Hot Zone; and
   c. **Cold Zone**: Considered a safe area without contamination.

2. Therefore, Department sworn and non-sworn members will not enter a declared "Hot Zone" unless they are properly trained and certified in HAZMAT operations (e.g. members of the Bomb Squad) have donned appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) and are acting under the direction of the Incident Commander.
3. The designation of Hot and Warm Zones are intended to reduce the risk of direct exposure to hazardous material by emergency personnel and to limit indirect contamination. Indirect contamination can occur through the touching or handling of persons or equipment, which have been exposed, to the hazardous material. Therefore, it is important to control the movement of personnel and equipment between the various zones to minimize the threat of indirect contamination. Persons must be decontaminated immediately upon exiting the Hot Zone. This also includes persons who may require medical attention as the result of the original incident.

205.7 - 8 Decontamination

Fire department personnel are trained in decontamination procedures and will provide appropriate decontamination equipment at the site. Members that become contaminated shall be decontaminated. Personnel assisting in decontamination will be attired in the proper personal protective equipment. Contaminated clothing will be removed from the person, and person will be washed with water or undergo other appropriate

decontamination procedures as determined by the Incident Commander based on the specific materials involved. Water decontamination is not always necessary or appropriate depending on the situation.

205.7 - 9 Department of Transportation Warning Placards

1. Warning placards on the vehicle and labels on containers may identify potentially hazardous gases or materials. The placards are diamond shaped and are color coded as follows:

    a. **Orange** - Indicates material that explodes, detonates, burns rapidly with intense heat, or pops;
    b. **White** - Indicates material that presents a severe health hazard;
    c. **Red** - Indicates material that is easily ignitable;
    d. **Green** - Indicates material that is highly pressurized and which could explode in the heat of a fire;
    e. **Yellow** - Indicates material that may react violently with other chemicals producing toxic or flammable gases;
    f. **Blue** - Indicates material that reacts violently with water; and
    g. **Multiple Colors** - Indicates combinations of the above color codes indicate multiple hazards.

2. In addition, the hazard class or division number should be displayed in the lower corner of the placard as follows:

    a. **Class 1** - Explosive;
    b. **Class 2** - Gases;
    c. **Class 3** - Flammable liquids;
    d. **Class 4** - Flammable solids, spontaneously combustible materials, and water-reactive substances;
    e. **Class 5** - Oxidizers and organic peroxides;
    f. **Class 6** - Toxic and infectious substances;
    g. **Class 7** - Radioactive materials;
    h. **Class 8** - Corrosive substances; and
    i. **Class 9** - Miscellaneous.