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| Policy #**Hazardous Materials**  | Related Policies: |
| *This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third-party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis for internal discipline and/or criminal charges.* |
| Applicable State Statutes:  |
| KACP Accreditation Standard: 25.3, 29.2 |
| Date Implemented: | Revision Date: May 1, 2025 |

1. **POLICY**

This policy establishes guidelines for the police department in the handling of incidents that involve hazardous materials. The police department's responsibility in such incidents includes traffic and pedestrian control, site security and evacuation when needed. The actual handling of the substance and the neutralizing of the incident are the responsibilities of the appropriate area hazardous material response team. Officers of the police department will have awareness level training for response to hazardous material incidents.

1. **PROCEDURE**
2. Whenever an officer is involved with an incident involving hazardous materials, serious consideration **must** be given to the following:
3. Initial Response:
4. Observe the area or scene from a safe distance with the use of binoculars or other optical enhancement device, prior to approaching the scene. See Chapter 29.2 Federal and State OSHA Regulations for further information regarding response and Personal Protection Equipment.
5. Approach the incident from an upwind direction.
6. Move people away from the incident scene and keep them away.
7. Refrain from walking into or touching any spilled material(s).
8. Avoid inhaling fumes, smoke, and vapors.
9. No smoking or ignition sources.
10. A supervisor shall be notified of the incident.
11. Attempt to identify the material that is involved. Identification should be made from a distance, using binoculars if possible, via the hazardous material placard or panel. Binoculars will be issued to each officer and maintained in their patrol vehicle.
12. The code number is a four-digit number, which should be displayed on the sides and/or ends of the vehicle.
13. The number should also appear on the shipping papers.
14. The letters “UN” or “NA” will usually precede the four-digit number on the shipping papers.
15. The four-digit number can be cross-referenced in the emergency response guidebook issued to the officer or via mobile data computer. Emergency response Books will be issued to each officer and should be maintained readily accessible in the officer’s assigned patrol car.
16. The guidebook provides identifying data, specific hazards of the material(s), and precautions that must be taken while handling the materials.
17. The four-digit code should be relayed to the communication center as soon as practical for identification.
18. If it is determined that the substance presents a hazard to the safety of the officer, actual approach to the site should be avoided, if possible.
19. Rescue operations must be conducted with extreme care and the guidelines in the section above should be followed along with information provided in the Emergency Response Guidebook.
20. In the event of the officer being exposed to hazardous materials at the scene, the officer should not leave the scene while contaminated unless certain dangers or emergencies exist, (e.g., pending explosion or fire, severe medical emergency or illness to the officer, etc.).
21. The Incident Commander shall be contacted in the event of possible exposure and/or contamination.
22. A perimeter, as specified in the Emergency Response Guidebook, shall be established and evacuation initiated as necessary to avoid further exposure by the public at large.
23. The Police operation generally will be limited to perimeter, evacuation, and support activities and will be coordinated with the incident commander. (The ranking fire department officer on the scene shall be deemed the incident commander.)
24. Supervisor Responsibilities:
25. Where a Supervisor is available, the supervisor should respond to the location following the guidelines above.
26. The Supervisor shall notify the Police Chief of the situation.
27. The Supervisor shall establish an appropriate perimeter keeping the Emergency Response Guidelines and resources in mind.
28. In the event of Officers being exposed and or contaminated, the Supervisor shall make arrangements with the Incident Commander for decontamination at the site.
29. The Supervisor shall assist the incident commander as necessary.