
Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Training

605.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish training that will meet state requirements regarding the Blue Ridge Fire District Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) response program. This policy identifies the level of training members must receive, when additional or supplemental training is required, and the training records required to meet the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120 (AAC § R20-5-602).

605.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District that any member whose duties include a role in the HAZMAT response program shall receive training to the level at which they are expected to operate in a HAZMAT environment or at an incident involving hazardous materials.

605.3 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

HAZMAT training shall be based on the duties and functions to be performed by each member. This includes training specific to the Incident Commander (IC), awareness or operations level, and HAZMAT technician or specialist (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6); AAC § R20-5-602).

Competencies required for all new members shall be conveyed to them through training before participating on an incident. Any member who participates or is expected to participate in an emergency response involving HAZMAT shall objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas.

605.3.1 FIRST RESPONDER AWARENESS

First responder awareness level training should be provided to all individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the release. A member with this level of training should demonstrate competency in the understanding and recognition of a hazardous substance release (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6); AAC § R20-5-602).

605.3.2 HAZMAT FIRST RESPONDER OPERATIONS (FRO)

First responder operations (FRO) level training should be provided for individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release. A member with this level of training is trained to respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release. This member's function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposures (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6); AAC § R20-5-602).

605.3.3 HAZMAT TECHNICIAN

HAZMAT technician level training should be provided to all individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances for the purpose of stopping the release. A member

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with this level of training would assume a more aggressive role by approaching the point of release in order to plug, patch, or otherwise stop the release of a hazardous substance (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6); AAC § R20-5-602).

605.3.4 HAZMAT SPECIALIST

HAZMAT specialist level training should be provided to all individuals who respond with, and provide support to, HAZMAT technicians. A member with this level of training has a more direct or specific knowledge of the various hazardous substances requiring containment. A HAZMAT specialist may also act as a site liaison to government authorities regarding site activities (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6); AAC § R20-5-602).

605.3.5 HAZMAT INCIDENT COMMANDER

HAZMAT IC level training should be provided to all individuals who could be responsible for all decisions relating to the management of a HAZMAT incident (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6); AAC § R20-5-602).

605.3.6 HAZMAT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

An emergency response plan shall be developed and implemented to address pre-emergency planning and coordination with additional responders prior to the commencement of emergency response operations. The plan will identify members' roles, lines of authority, and communications for all members. The plan shall be in writing and available for inspection and copying by employees, their representatives, and Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) personnel.

605.3.7 HAZMAT ANNUAL REFRESHER TRAINING

Members who receive an initial level of training in accordance with this policy shall receive annual refresher training of sufficient and necessary content and duration to maintain their competencies, or shall demonstrate competency in those areas at least yearly (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(8); AAC § R20-5-602).

605.4 BASELINE PHYSICAL FOR HAZMAT TEAM MEMBERS

Members of an organized, designated HAZMAT team and HAZMAT specialists shall receive a baseline physical examination. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that medical examinations and consultations be made available to members of HAZMAT teams within prescribed time periods. All members of a designated HAZMAT team shall receive medical examinations and consultations on the following schedules (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(9); AAC § R20-5-602):

- (a) Prior to assignment
- (b) At least once every 12 months
- (c) At termination of employment or reassignment to duties not covered by this policy

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- (d) As soon as possible upon notification that the employee has developed signs or symptoms indicating possible overexposure to hazardous substances or health hazards
- (e) As soon as possible upon notification that the employee has been injured or exposed above the permissible exposure limits or published exposure levels in an emergency situation

The frequency of a member's examinations may be increased if the examining physician determines that it is medically necessary. Medical examinations should include medical and work history. Emphasis should be placed on any symptoms related to the handling of, or exposure to, hazardous substances or health hazards. Medical examinations should address fitness for duty, especially as it pertains to wearing personal protective equipment under conditions that may be encountered on-duty. The content of medical examinations should be made available to the member as determined by the attending physician.

605.4.1 HAZMAT MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

Members of an organized and designated HAZMAT team and HAZMAT specialists shall receive a baseline physical examination and be provided with medical surveillance (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(9); AAC § R20-5-602).

Any emergency response member who exhibits signs or symptoms which may have resulted from exposure to hazardous substances during the course of an emergency incident, either immediately or subsequently, shall be provided with medical consultation (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(9); AAC § R20-5-602).

Accurate records of the medical surveillance required by this policy shall be retained for the duration of the member's employment plus 30 years. This record shall contain at a minimum the following information (29 CFR 1910.120(q)(9); AAC § R20-5-602):

- (a) The name of the member.
- (b) The physician's written opinions, recommended limitations, and results of examinations and tests.
- (c) Any member medical complaints related to exposure to hazardous substances.
- (d) A copy of the information provided to the physician by the district, with the exception of district policies and OSHA standards.

605.5 TRAINING RECORDS

The Training Coordinator shall be responsible for maintaining records of all HAZMAT training provided to members. Records should include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Dates of the training sessions.
- (b) A list of the topics or a summary of the content of the training sessions.
 - 1. Specific content required by regulation covered

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2. Manufacturer's recommendations (as applicable)
 3. Manufacturer's operations/service/maintenance manuals (as applicable)
- (c) The names or other identifiers and job titles of all members who received the training.
 - (d) The names, certificate numbers and qualifications of persons conducting the training.
 - (e) Demonstration that learning took place (e.g., evaluation, quiz, test).

The Training Coordinator should maintain the training records in accordance with established records retention schedules.