

Post Incident Analysis



Mission

To combine strengths and resources for the purpose of enhancing service delivery to our communities across all jurisdictional boundaries.

Values

Collaboration
Service Excellence
Accountability
Transparency
Visionary
Community-Focused



Monterrey HazMat Incident

Incident Review **P.1**

Strengths **P.3**

Key Recommendations **P.4**

Monterrey HazMat Incident Summary

On the morning of June 12, 2019, the Eules alarm office received a request from the Eules Police Department for the fire department to respond to 1433 Monterrey, Apt. 157 for an unconscious person in front of an apartment building. Prior to the arrival of the police department, a citizen called to complain of fumes and he could "hear it". The call history showed that the PD had responded to the same address three times that same day.

Quint 552 and Medic 552 responded at 0554 and found an unconscious and unresponsive patient sitting in a running vehicle. The crews assessed the patient and started CPR. Advanced life support measures were administered and the patient was transported to HEB hospital. During the treatment of the patient, the police asked Quint 552 for a fan to ventilate the patient's apartment. The police officers had encountered an extreme smell of ammonia, bleach, and chlorine. Inside the apartment was a chemical cloud and heat. The officer from Quint 552 conferred with a HazMat technician on his apparatus and they decided that they needed to evacuate the adjacent apartments and call for a NEFDA HazMat

response. Quint 552 called Battalion 55 and advised him of the situation. Battalion 55 advised Quint 552 to call for a Level 1 HazMat response.

Eules Alarm transmitted a HazMat response and Squad 55, Truck 553, Medic 553, HazMat 22, HazMat 66, Battalion 22, and Battalion 55 responded. Battalion 55 arrived on scene and assumed Command from Quint 552. Battalion 55 had a driver that day and assigned him as his Staff Aid. Command called Battalion 22 and gave an update on the current situation. Quint 552 and the police evacuated four apartments upstairs, four downstairs, and established a 100-foot perimeter around the apartment building as the hot zone. The HazMat units arrived on scene and Battalion 22 was assigned as the HazMat Branch. HazMat 22 was assigned as the entry team and HazMat 66 was Rapid Intervention. Decontamination was established by Quint 552 and Truck 553. The entry team donned Level B chemical splash suits with SCBA. The entry team proceeded inside the apartment and conducted air monitoring. The apartment had been ventilated somewhat by the entrance of the PD and the door being left open. Readings were 0.8 PPM

VISION

To be a reliable and sustainable organization

Strengthen the continuity of operations and partnership

Industry leader in regional partnerships that provide specialty services

Identify and evaluate opportunities for additional collaboration

Promote a culture of safety for our members



Always Consider

Command and Control

Communications

Building Construction

Tactical Priorities

Span-of-Control

Continual Size-Up

for Chlorine and normal for the rest of the air monitoring. Water from the toilet was sampled using a variety of testing equipment. The tests showed that the water was acidic. The entry team opened windows and doors and fully ventilated the apartment. They did not find any evidence of illegal activity inside the apartment. The entry team then moved to the patient's car to detect if chemicals were present in it. All readings were normal within the car. There was a liquid on the ground around the vehicle and the entry team also sampled it. This turned out to be anti-freeze. The entry team then moved to decontamination. Based on the evidence and samples that were found in the apartment, it was theorized that the patient had suffered exposure to chemicals by inhalation.

Because of the exposure the Euless Police officers, members of Quint 552, and Medic 552 were exposed to, it was determined that they would all need to be evaluated for inhalation exposure at HEB. Medic 553 assisted in evaluating these members and transporting them to the hospital. Also, Medic 552 would have to be decontaminated. HEB Hospital was notified of the potential exposure to bleach and ammonia while Medic 552 was transporting the patient to the hospital and also upon arrival at the Emergency Department. Chief 550 responded to HEB Hospital to act as a liaison between the fire department and the hospital. With the

contamination to Medic 552, Chief 554 started working towards getting a reserve MICU in-service to help with the call load while Medic 552 was out of service.

Contributing Factors

The following were part of the Contributing Factors:

- It was unclear whether this was an accidental or intentional self-poisoning
- Method used could affect many others
- Communications
- Early identification of Hazardous Materials
- Early notifications to regional partners and others affected



DECIDE

Detect

Estimate

Choose Response

Identify Actions

Do Best Option

Evaluate

STRENGTHS

THINGS THAT WENT WELL

- Good size up of the situation.
- Calling for HazMat early.
- Staff Aide or Field Incident Technician for Command.
- Establishment of a HazMat Branch.
- Establishment of Hot, Warm, and Cold zones.
- Eules Police established a media area away from the operational area.
- Early evacuation of people within the affected area.
- Establishing a hospital liaison.
- Moving quickly to get another MICU in service to help with call volume.
- Moved operations to a separate radio channel (Channel 3).
- Quick deployment of the entry team with a RIT and decontamination established.
- Short operational time in the Hot zone (16 minutes)
- HazMat arrived with 6 technicians



Training... Training... Training...

Never stop training. NEFDA has made a commitment to learning by educating every member of our 14 organizations. All information learned during this incident will be passed on, with the common goal of continued excellence in fire fighting and Fire Fighter Safety.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Train on the different HazMat levels and how NEFDA responds.
- Understand the operational areas of specialty teams and park vehicles accordingly.
- Be aware of first responders in hazardous environments and exposure of personnel to potentially life threatening gases.
- Command needs to communicate with the Branches/Groups/Divisions that were established and not the individual companies.
- Consider moving to a separate channel sooner so that the operation is not hindered by other radio messages.
- Get weather conditions for the incident.
- Questions should go through Branch, Division, or Group officers, not directly to Command.
- Identify a Staff Aide (FIT, CT) for operational events.
- Contact charge nurse of hospitals with large number of patients, exposures, etc...

