



Emergency Support Function 10: Hazardous Materials

County of Riverside Riverside County Operational Area (OA)



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County of Riverside
Emergency Management Department

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Riverside County EOP Emergency Support Function # 10: *Hazardous Materials*

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1. Introduction

1.1 Coordinating and Supporting Departments

Lead Agency	CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD), Riverside County Environmental Health (DEH)
Supporting Agencies	Cal FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD), Riverside County Environmental Health, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, City of Riverside Fire Department, City of Corona Fire Department, City of Hemet Fire Department, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

1.2 Emergency Support Function Responsibilities

Department	Responsibilities
Riverside County Fire Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate hazardous materials response operations ▪ Maintain contact with the Incident Commander and/or FDOC ▪ Maintain contact with supporting departments ▪ Assist with appropriate State and Federal notifications
Riverside County Environmental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make appropriate State and Federal hazardous materials notifications and reporting ▪ Coordinate hazardous materials clean up procedures ▪ Maintain contact with the Incident Commander and/or FDOC ▪ Maintain contact with supporting departments
Supporting Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide direct support for Riverside County Fire Department field operations ▪ Provide hazardous materials response within jurisdictional boundaries ▪ Maintain communication with Hazardous Material ESF representatives; provide regular situation status updates ▪ Staff agency DOC and/or the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OA EOC) as required

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to support the response to an actual, potential discharge, and/or uncontrolled release of, a hazardous material. This ESF includes processes for coordinating resources and



supports the responsible jurisdictions to prepare for, prevent, minimize, assess, mitigate, respond to, and recover from a threat to the public or environment by actual or potential hazardous materials releases.

1.4 Scope

This ESF outlines the Riverside County Fire Department actions in support of HazMat incidents, including mobilizing and providing personnel, equipment, supplies, and other resources as required. Hazardous materials include any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or biological characteristics, poses a considerable present or potential hazard to human health or safety, or to the environment. It refers generally to hazardous chemicals, radioactive materials, and biohazards materials.

2. Concept of Operations (ConOps)

2.1 General Concepts

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Support Function will be utilized by the Riverside County Fire Department and supporting departments and agencies during any large-scale event or disaster that results in mass casualties and damage to environment, economy, and/or government functions within Riverside County Operational Area (OA). Procedures pertaining to this function are compliant with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), Incident Command System (ICS), and the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS).

This Concept of Operations will outline the following elements of the Hazardous Response function:

- Hazardous Materials
- Hazardous Release Response Coordination
- Hazardous Materials Team
- Information Flow
- Organization and Structure
- Notification and Activation Procedures
- Designated Response Actions
- Deactivation Procedures

2.2 Primary Roles

2.2.1 Fire Department Operation Centers (FDOC)

During any hazardous materials event that exceeds normal Riverside County Fire Department capacity, the Riverside County Fire Department Operations Center (FDOC) will be activated. The FDOC will coordinate the Riverside County Fire Department hazardous materials response activities and conduct department-level hazardous material functions. When the Riverside County OA Emergency Operations Center (EOC)



is activated, the EOC Fire and Rescue Branch will coordinate countywide hazardous material functions. Event information and needs will be communicated from the Fire DOC to the OA EOC Fire and Rescue Branch.

2.2.2 Hazardous Materials Team

The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department has one highly trained hazardous materials team that responds countywide to material discharge including poisons, environmentally destructive elements, and weapons of destruction emergencies within RCFD's jurisdictional boundaries. The Hazardous Materials Team will be deployed to the site of the release to conduct assessments, collect contamination samples, use chemicals or other materials to contain or impede the spread of the release or mitigate its effects, and conduct other activities as deemed necessary. Riverside County Sheriff Department's Hazardous Device Team is the primary agency for explosives. For areas outside of RCFO's jurisdictional boundaries, the appropriate agency's Hazardous Materials Team will be deployed to provide the same services.

2.2.3 Riverside County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (OA EOC) Fire and Rescue-related Positions

There is a Hazardous Materials Unit in the OA EOC Fire and Rescue Branch. The Hazardous Materials Unit Leader has a responsibility to coordinate the response with the Fire DOC and communicate between the Fire DOC and the Fire and Rescue Branch Coordinator during hazardous materials incidents.

2.3 Hazardous Materials Response Coordination

The Riverside County Fire Department is the primary agency responsible for response to, and mitigation of, hazardous material releases occurring within the Riverside operational area. During the release that necessitates an implementation of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Support Function the Riverside County Fire Department will assume the role of Incident Commander or will be designated as the OA EOC Fire and Rescue Branch Coordinator, and/or Hazardous Material Unit Leader. The Riverside County Fire Department will be responsible for monitoring and assessing the status of the release, organizing the containment, and coordinating the acquisition of resources. Riverside County Environmental Health will be responsible for monitoring and assessing the status of clean up and disposal of hazardous substances.

Supporting departments are crucial to the success of hazardous materials activities by providing capabilities, expertise, or materials that the Riverside County Fire Department and/or Riverside County Environmental Health may not possess or may not have in sufficient quantities. According to the needs of the event, RCFD/DEH with supporting agencies to coordinate the following:

- Crowd control and traffic control
- Detection and monitoring
- Evacuation
- Crime scene investigation



- Procurement of large quantities of dirt and sand to be used for building containment dikes or as absorbent
- Identification and categorization of unknown substances
- Coordination with local hospitals regarding signs, symptoms, and treatments
- Identification of viable evacuation routes
- Provision of mass transit and transportation services for large scale evacuations

In addition, the Riverside County Joint Public Safety Agency Operations for Evacuations Evacuation Checklist was developed to assist field supervisors in the initial stages of a fire or other emergency requiring evacuations. The checklist is a guideline intended to facilitate the safe and efficient evacuation of the whole community including individuals requiring additional or differently delivered response assistance. The checklist is updated and maintained by EMD in collaboration with other agencies.

2.3.1 Response Level Criteria

The following generalized HazMat response level criteria are intended to be broad guidelines. Ultimate responsibility for determining the size, extent, complexity, and response level of any HazMat incident rests with the on-scene Incident Commander.

Level 1 – Controlled Emergency Condition

- Incident that can be controlled by the primary first response agencies of a local jurisdiction
- Single jurisdiction and limited agency involvement
- Does not require evacuation except for the affected structure or facility
- Confined geographic area
- No immediate threat to life, health, or property

Level 2 – Limited Emergency Condition

- Potential threat to life, health, or property
- Expanded geographic scope
- Limited evacuation of nearby residents or facilities
- Involvement of one or more jurisdictions
- Limited participation or mutual aid needed from agencies that do not routinely respond to emergency incidents in the area
- Specialist or technical team is called to the scene
- Combined emergency operations required such as firefighting and evacuation, or containment and emergency medical care

Level 3 – Full Emergency Condition

- Serious hazard or severe threat to life, health, and property
- Large geographic impact
- Major community evacuation
- Multi-jurisdictional involvement
- State and federal involvement



- Specialists and technical teams deployed
- Extensive resource management and allocation
- Multiple emergency operations

2.4 Information Flow

Hazardous Material ESF facilitates communication among multiple response coordination levels during hazardous materials release response. The following provides an overview of the various ESF coordination levels that maintain communication in accordance with event requirements.

Field Operations

- Conduct necessary activities to assess, monitor, remove, or dispose of hazardous materials according to direction from the Incident Commander
- Submit frequent situation status reports to the FDOC

Incident Command Post / Unified Command (ICP / UC)

- Coordinate field operations and resource utilization
- Maintain communications with FDOC

Branches (if activated)

- Maintain contact with field divisions

Fire DOC

- Maintain constant communication with Incident Commander and/or branches regarding the status of field operations
- Receive requests for resources from the field; fulfill requests internally or coordinate requests with EOC or mutual aid as necessary
- Coordinate with the appropriate agency to transport hazardous materials by road, rail, pipelines, air, and/or waterways

OA EOC Fire and Rescue Branch

- Gather information from field and/or FDOC representatives on a continual basis
- Submit frequent situation status reports to the Fire and Branch Coordinator
- Coordinate with regional, State, or Federal entities as necessary
- Coordinate overall activities of hazardous materials response efforts

OA EOC Operations Section Chief

- Exchange updated hazardous materials information to ensure EOC situational awareness
- Exchange information about support operations, needed resources, and field situation status

Supporting Departments

- Support EOC, FDOC, and/or field operations as requested



- Maintain communication with appropriate department representatives by providing frequent situation status updates

2.5 Organization and Structure

2.5.1 Organization

The organizational chart in the base plan depicts the relationship between the OA EOC Fire and Rescue Branch, its functional units, and the various involved departments, as well as its coordination within the OA EOC. Reference the EOC organizational Chart in the EOP base plan for any questions.

2.5.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The following table identifies the overall roles and responsibilities of each entity that may be involved with an activation of the Hazardous Materials ESF. Entities needed to support hazardous materials operations will vary and will be determined according to the needs of the event.

Entity	Responsibility
County/OA Entities	
Riverside County Fire Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coordinate hazardous materials response operations▪ Maintain contact with the Incident Commander and/or FDOC▪ Maintain contact with supporting departments▪ Assist with appropriate State and Federal notifications
Riverside County Environmental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coordinate hazardous materials clean up and disposal operations▪ Maintain contact with the Incident Commander and/or FDOC▪ Maintain contact with supporting departments▪ Make appropriate State and Federal notifications and reports
Field Incident Commander	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Determine the most appropriate actions to manage the incident▪ Establish Scene Control Zones▪ Perform rescue operations if it can be performed safely▪ Submit frequent situation status reports to the Fire DOC
Hazardous Materials Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Conduct necessary activities to assess, monitor, contain, remove, or dispose of hazardous materials, according to direction from the Incident Commander



Entity	Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform rescue operations if prudent
Fire and Rescue Branch Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate Fire DOC to OA EOC communications Provide frequent situation status updates to the OA EOC Planning Section Coordinate hazardous materials response activities with other departments represented in the OA EOC
Hazardous Materials Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide EOC-level operational support for the event Maintain communication with the Riverside County Fire DOC and outside supporting agencies Provide frequent situation status updates to the OA EOC Fire and Rescue Branch Coordinator

Entity	Responsibility
State and Federal Entities	
Cal OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide state level assistance to supplement fire and rescue resources via personnel, equipment, supplies
DTSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigate contaminated hazardous waste sites
Cal EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide resource and/or staffing support to hazardous materials operations during events that exceed RCFD personnel or equipment capabilities
Federal EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist state and local government in the response to environmental disasters and hazardous materials releases that threaten human health and/or the environment when an emergency requires additional resources and expertise

2.6 Notification and Activation

2.6.1 Notification

In the event of an impending or actual hazardous materials event impacting the Riverside County OA, the Riverside County Fire Department in coordination with the Riverside County Emergency Management Department (EMD) will determine the need to implement the Hazardous Materials Emergency Support Function. Notification will then be issued to all relevant supporting departments and agencies, and to any



additional departments or agencies as required. Notification will be distributed via the most appropriate communications equipment for the event requirements, and will detail event information, reporting instructions, and any relevant coordination information.

2.6.2 Activation

The decision to activate elements of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Support Function may be made by the Riverside County Fire Department, OA EOC Director, Deputy Director, or EMD Duty Officer when a hazardous release is anticipated or has occurred. The level of activation will be determined according to the requirements of the event. The decision to implement the Hazardous Materials Emergency Support Function may occur as a result of the following situations:

- During any release that exceeds the capacity of normal Riverside County Fire Department operations
- During regional releases that impact Riverside County
- If a release necessitates evacuation
- During any release that results in casualties
- The magnitude of a release requires a mutual aid request
- Response and recovery operations will involve multiple city departments
- The characteristic hazards or magnitude of the release require regional, state, or federal notifications to be made
- Response and/or recovery efforts are expected to last an extended period

Step 1: Secure Incident Site

- To ensure the safety and well-being of life and property during a hazardous materials event, RCFD will perform the following operations:
- Deploy units to incident site
- Set up ICS structure in field
- Conduct initial incident assessment and develop Incident Action Plan (IAP)
- Determine potential impact on population and/or environment
- Determine tactical requirements
- Prepare site safety plan

Step 2: Activate the Fire DOC; Alert the OA EOC (as Necessary)

Activation of the Fire DOC and/or the OA EOC involves, but is not limited to, the following:

- If activated, send departmental representatives to EOC

Assign Hazardous Materials Response Unit Leader responsibilities to the most appropriate personnel (situation dependent)

- Determine HazMat mutual aid needs
- Mutual Aid Coordinator submits requests to neighboring counties
- If neighboring counties are unable to fulfill requests, notify Fire & Rescue Region



- VI Mutual Aid Coordinator of requests
- Notify and request assistance from supporting departments
- Make appropriate federal and state notifications

Step 3: Gather Information

Information is continuously collected from the Riverside County Fire Department and from the following groups:

- Public and elected officials (via phone calls)
- Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), nonprofit organizations, private sector (transportation and port companies, airports)
- Media (via broadcast, web information, blogs, print)
- State and Federal agencies, as appropriate (Department of Traffic [DOT], the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], etc.)

Provide status updates on hazardous materials operations:

- Response personnel in the field
- Confirm affected areas through reports from dispatched emergency units and other support personnel
- Other responding departments

Step 4: Analyze Information and Coordinate Response

- Assess the situation based on current information
- Revise IAP and site safety plan as necessary

Step 5: Obtain Resources

- Request resources through the Fire DOC, OA EOC, and supporting departments, to deploy to the field during an event
- Provide emergency information and guidance to the Public Information Officer (PIO)/Joint Information Center (JIC)
- Initial public information will be accessible to the whole community and includes, but may not be limited to, the following:
 - Damage assessment and estimated/anticipated duration
 - Actions the Riverside County Fire Department is taking
 - Actions businesses, industries, and residents should take
 - A summary of the event
 - Overall steps to be taken by the government and citizens to return to normal operation after the event

Step 6: Continue to Monitor, Track, and Inform

- Receive and respond to requests for information
- Serve as the point of contact for post-event damage reports
- Provide situation updates, as necessary
- Notify and consult with subject matter experts from Federal, State, regional, and local authorities as needed



- Coordinate the collection and reporting of hazardous material event information and to the public through the PIO, OA EOC PIO, and/or the JIC

2.3.4 Deactivation

Response elements of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Support Function will be deactivated when the need for additional hazardous materials coordination has diminished or ceased, or when the responsible party has begun cleanup efforts. Deactivation of Hazardous Materials Emergency Support Function response elements may occur incrementally according to the need or lack of need for specific hazardous materials functions. Supporting agencies may be deactivated or scaled back at the discretion of the Riverside County Fire Department, Fire DOC, Riverside County OA Director, Deputy Director, or Operations Section Chief, as appropriate.