

ANNEX

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE PLAN



**Approved
Modoc County Board of Supervisors
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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE PLAN

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 Purpose

The Hazardous Materials Annex establishes policies and responsibilities for protecting the health and safety of the populace, property, and the environment in the Operational Area (OA) from incidents of the release of solid, liquid or gaseous hazardous materials (hazmat). *Whereas these policies and responsibilities are applicable to a hazmat incident within a terrorist act, they do not address national security, law enforcement, etc. aspects of a hazardous materials response as part of a larger, multi-disciplined response to a terrorist act.*

The annex establishes the policies, organization, governing structure and agency responsibilities for response to and mitigation of potential or actual hazmat emergencies. Response organization and operations conform to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) to facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination, response and operations.

The annex establishes concepts and baselines for operating, staffing, training and supporting Modoc County hazmat incident response within the incorporated and unincorporated areas within the County.

1.2 Objectives

- Provide first responders and hazmat response with the organizational structure, equipment, training and support to be able to save lives, reduce injuries, and prevent or minimize damage to property and the environment.
- Describe the OA hazardous materials response and support organization.
- Delineate responsibilities of all public agencies in the event of an incident in the OA and highlight responsibilities and support normally provided by state and federal agencies.
- Provide the basis for training and equipping emergency response personnel (hazmateers, hazmat teams, and environmental health responders).
- Establish lines of authority and coordination within the OA hazardous materials response system.
- Facilitate requests for and receipt of hazardous materials incident response mutual aid through the Shasta Cascade Hazardous Material Response Team (SCHMRT).
- Provide an overview of procedures for accessing state and federal funding for the mitigation of and recovery from hazmat incidents.

1.3 Scope

The policies, procedures, and provisions of this plan are applicable to all agencies and individuals having responsibility for hazmat emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and/or mitigation in the OA. It recognizes Modoc County Environmental Health as a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) and as such, the plans are complementary and mutually supportive.

The CUPA is a certified State licensing and operating agency for six hazardous materials related programs. The CUPA designation requires Modoc County Environmental Health to plan for a County wide hazardous material emergency response plan and regulate facilities that are above the threshold quantities of hazardous materials as per Health and Safety Code.

In this plan, a hazardous material is defined as “a substance or combination of substances which, because of quantity, concentration, physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness, or pose a present or potential hazard to human life, property or environment.”

Threatened and unauthorized releases of hazardous materials (to include radiological materials) are addressed herein. Releases of hazardous nature determined to be “acute” require immediate response, whereas “threatened” release responses can be more deliberate in nature.

This plan does not address hazardous incident site remediation, either on an emergency or deliberate basis as that responsibility rests with Environmental Health (EH).

1.4 Authorities and References

- **Authorities:** Pertinent portions of:
 - a. Modoc County Code
 - b. California Fire Code
 - c. CA Health and Safety Code
 - d. CA Government Code
 - e. CA Vehicle Code
 - f. CA Water Code
 - g. CA Fish & Game Code

- **References:**
 - a. California Emergency Plan, July 2009

2. THREAT SUMMARY

2.1 General

Hazardous materials incidents occur anywhere at any time, but the potential for incidents is heightened based on such factors as the use of hazardous materials in manufacturing or business, transport or storage, and is most likely greatest in the following areas:

- **On Transportation Routes** - Highways, railways, and commercial or aviation routes constitute a major threat due to the myriad chemicals and hazardous substances, including radioactive materials, transported in vehicles, trains, pipelines and aircraft. Interstate 395 and State Highways 299, and 139 are areas of concern, as are the railroad tracks that traverse Modoc County.
- **In Business Areas** – Retail and light industrial facilities in Alturas as well as those in all of the unincorporated cities are areas of concern. Businesses in Modoc County also use potentially harmful products meaning that virtually all businesses should be considered potential hazmat incident sites. Regardless of location, all businesses using or storing regulated amounts of hazardous materials are required to file a business plan that is in conformance with the requirements of the CA Health and Safety Code with Environmental Health.
- **On Agricultural Land** - The majority of industry in Modoc County is agriculture. Accidental releases of combinations of pesticides, fertilizers, and other agricultural chemicals may be harmful to humans and to the environment. Of special concern is the aerial release of pesticides, termed “pesticide drift” which can cause harm in a far greater area than just in the immediate area of release. For all incidents, affected by or concerning pesticide drift, the office of the County Agricultural Commissioner will be notified, and that office will provide technical expertise on the specific pesticide released and on the mitigation of its effects and on the proper methods of remediation.
- **In and Around Illegal Drug Manufacturing Operations** - Illegal drug lab operations such as those for methamphetamine production pose a significant threat during the manufacturing process or when lab residues are illegally dumped anywhere in the county. These pose a serious health threat to the general public or unsuspecting individuals as well as to the environment. In virtually all cases regarding illegal drug labs, the scene is regarded as a crime scene, and as such, different rules apply. Law enforcement (local, State or Federal) assumes Incident Command and often requests the local hazmat team to support its response either directly or through Mutual Aid.
- **At Remote Dumping Sites** – Industrial wastes such as used motor oil, solvents, or paint are occasionally included in illegal garbage/construction waste dumped in remote areas of the county. However, incidents comprising a “static” scene (no off-gassing or leaking of liquids) will be responded to.

2.2 Assumptions

- Hazmat incidents require a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional response. The Hazmat Incident Command System, normally utilizing a unified command system, is implemented for response.
- **All first responders and follow-on emergency response personnel are properly trained to the level of emergency response actions required for their assigned positions at the incident site.**

- Major hazmat incidents are of widespread media and public interest and the media serves as an ally, providing considerable assistance in public information and warning.
- Significant hazmat incidents require an extended time commitment of personnel and resources both from responding agencies and affected jurisdictions.
- Hazmat response operations are conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, ordinances, codes and special plans.

3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

3.1 Initiation of Response

3.1.1 Modoc Initial Response Hazmat Unit (IRHU): Modoc County Dispatch shall call designated individual/s from a call list to initiate a hazardous material response.

3.2 Incident Management

3.2.1 ICS is used to manage hazardous incident response. The Incident Commander (IC) will be by a qualified Hazmat-IC. For large or complex hazmat incidents (Level II or III), the hazmat team leader normally assumes the role of Hazmat Group Supervisor in lieu of IC. Anyone assuming hazmat IC or a general staff position at a large incident must be certified in Hazmat IC per the California Health and Safety Code.

3.2.2 Responsibility for Incident Command is determined by location of the incident. If it's:

- *On a roadway:* Within the city limits of Alturas, the fire department and/or police department have statutory IC responsibility. On all other roadways within the unincorporated County, CHP is IC. **Note:** If traffic on any route under CHP jurisdiction is, or is likely to be, adversely affected by a hazmat incident, CHP IC will notify the CHP Area office.
- *Off-road:* Within the OA, IC is a responsibility of city/local fire/police departments within the boundaries of Alturas, and Sheriff's department everywhere else.

3.2.3 *When the scale/level of the incident requires:* The IC shall appoint a certified "Incident Safety Officer" responsible for assessing hazardous or unsafe situations and developing measures to ensure the safety of incident response personnel. In addition, IC appoints a certified "Assistant Safety Officer - Hazardous Materials" responsible for the technical response by the hazmat team on site.

3.3 Levels of Response

Hazmat incidents are categorized by severity--the factor that ultimately determines the level of response. Coordination between the IC and the Incident Response Hazmat Unit (IRHU) determines appropriate level.

3.3.1 Level I – A minor situation manageable within the capability of first responders trained at the “operational” level. A Level I incident involves a release, or a possibility/potential of a release, of a small amount of liquid or solid of an identified hazardous material. Agencies on-scene have the resources, expertise and equipment to safely secure, isolate and mitigate the site.

As a minimum, a command post and exclusion zone will be established. Exclusion zone entry is limited to personnel with the proper protective equipment with a specific requirement for entering. *An incident will be immediately upgraded to Level II for a release or potential release of an unknown hazardous or suspected hazardous material.*

3.3.2 Level II – An incident in which its management is beyond the capability of the agency with jurisdictional responsibility and which requires response by a hazmat team. These range from small incidents involving unknown substances to large incidents with multiple agencies and jurisdictions.

The IC declares a Level II incident when it involves a **significant quantity** of liquid or solid of a **known** hazardous substance or any quantity of an unknown material that has been released or has the imminent potential for release.

An incident is declared Level II for the release of any quantity of a known solid or liquid toxic material in a critical public area or for the release or potential release of any quantity of an **unknown** solid, liquid, or gaseous toxic material or suspected toxic material (All gases other than natural gas are considered toxic).

For a Level II incident, a formal and properly identified Command Post, with a removed staging area, an Incident Safety Officer, and a Hazardous Materials Group must be established. Control zones must be established as early as possible and evaluated/monitored throughout the incident. Localized evacuation may be required and cooperating agencies notified.

3.3.3. Level III - Any incident beyond the capabilities of the hazmat team and local resources. The incident may be lengthy in duration and may necessitate large-scale evacuations. Level III incidents likely involve multiple agencies and jurisdictions, private sector resources (including chemical manufacturers), and volunteer organizations.

4. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Program

The hazmat emergency response program provides direct emergency response to real or potential hazmat incidents within the OA and facilitates day-to-day program administration and fiscal support. Operationally, this includes tactical hazmat emergency operations including sampling, containment, stabilization, decontamination, and

mitigation. Hazmat response will function in accordance with Hazmat ICS, this plan, and its own standard procedures and guidance. The OA hazmat emergency response program comprises the following:

4.1.1 Program Coordinator: OES is responsible for coordinating the development of the hazmat response plan; and assisting in conducting equipment, resource and fiscal planning; as well as aiding in the process of obtaining potential grants and other funding; and will monitor all hazmat team member qualifications, training and equipment to meet all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

4.1.2 Policy Advisory Group (PAG): The PAG is responsible for assisting OES in developing program vision, direction, and specific policies. It is comprised of:

- Director of OES, or designee, who serves as Chair,
- the EH Director,
- chiefs of the fire departments,
- and other departments providing individual unit members.

OES provides administrative support.

4.1.3 Modoc Initial Response Hazmat Unit (IRHU): The Modoc IRHU is comprised of up to six designated individuals from the County and the City of Alturas. Team members shall meet quarterly, make effort to participate in SCHMRT training, and respond to hazardous material incidents within the incorporated and unincorporated areas within the OA. Levels of response will depend on available members and incident assessment. Modoc IHRU is responsible to assist SCHMRT on all OA hazardous material incidents and support SCHMRT in out of county incidents if feasible.

4.1.4 Shasta Cascade Hazardous Material Response Team (SCHMRT): The SCHMRT is responsible to respond to hazardous material incidents in Modoc County per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Modoc County Board of Supervisors and Modoc County OES.

4.1.5 Modoc Decontamination Team (MDT): The designated agency, per County MOU, provides the County's decontamination response team through a MOU with Modoc County and supported by Modoc County OES. The MDT shall be available to support SCHMRT and IHRU response within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

4.2 Modoc County, Local Government and Special Agency Responsibilities Unique to Hazmat Incidents (in addition to those in the basic plan)

4.2.1 Hazmat Response (Unit or Individual)

- a. Responds to all declared or potential hazmat incidents, including incidents of pesticide drift, as per Federal, state and local laws, codes, regulations, plans and standards.

- Conducts tactical operations within the scope of hazmat response unit capabilities and training, and in accordance with its Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG), to contain and stabilize a hazmat incident.
- Obtains samples and assist in field identification of known or potentially hazardous materials.
- Provides technical assistance and recommendations to the IC.
- Provides technical hazardous materials knowledge and information to IC in order for Environmental Health to ensure site remediation. Note: The hazmat unit/individual is not responsible for initiating or executing hazardous materials remediation.

4.2.2 Law Enforcement Agencies

Jurisdictions:

- **City of Alturas Police Department:** Assumes IC for all incidents occurring within the city limits.
- **Sheriff's Office:** Assumes IC for incidents occurring on all off-road incidents in the unincorporated county.
- **CHP** assumes IC for hazmat incidents on all public roads (including highways, streets, roads, parkways, etc.) within unincorporated areas.
- Responsible law enforcement agencies will
 - Provides hazard recognition, incident assessment, and emergency notifications.
 - Provides incident site security.
 - Executes and enforces required evacuations.

4.2.3. Fire Agencies

- Assume IC for all incidents occurring within respective jurisdictions except as noted in third bullet above (CHP).
- Assist with transport of patient or patients with other injuries resulting from hazmat incidents to emergency medical facilities.
- Provide hazard recognition, assessment, and emergency notification.
- Execute containment actions necessary to confine the hazardous material(s) to the affected area and prevent further contamination (only if able to be performed safely and within capabilities).
- Support hazmat rescue activities, as appropriate.
- Provide field treatment and gross decontamination, as appropriate.

4.2.4 Environmental Health (EH)

- Provides expertise on scene for hazmat categorizing/mitigating/remediation.
- Represents the Modoc County Health Officer on scene.
- Assists IC on threats to public health and environment as well as on mitigation/remediation procedures.
- Oversees mitigation/remediation undertaken by property owner or other responsible party.
- Determines specific costs, including time, incurred in mitigation in order to establish claim for reimbursement.

- Declares incident site safe for reentry by the public.

4.2.5 Agricultural Commissioner

- Provides response support as subject matter expert/ technical expert during any occurrence of pesticide drift or other incident involving pesticide use.
- Provides assistance and information regarding specific hazards associated with pesticides, fertilizers, and other agricultural chemicals.

4.2.6 Air Pollution Control District

- Liaison with local, state, and federal agencies involved in air pollution control to provide meteorological and wind drift information as requested.
- Liaison with State Air Resources Board for emergency response capability for determination of atmospheric contamination, as requested.

4.2.7 Office of Emergency Services

- Coordinate the County Hazmat program.
- Represent the Board of Supervisors and CAO at all hazmat incidents.
- Ensure notification of State Warning Center.
- Initiate requests and coordinate state, federal and non-governmental organization (NGO) assistance through CalOES.
- Coordinate cost recovery by all County agencies and hazmat response teams in accordance with Modoc County Code.
- Initiate SCHMRT response upon request from IC.

4.2.8 Public Works and Road Departments (County and City)

- Provide personnel and resources necessary for product clean up and disposal from locally maintained roadways for specified materials that can be safely handled by non-hazmat personnel, e.g., small quantities of leaked petroleum products, paint or batteries.
- Provide personnel, barriers, and signage, as requested, for road closures.

4.2.9 Water Agencies, Public Utility and Community Services Districts

- Conduct immediate remedial actions, within limits of hazardous materials training, when hazardous materials effect, or potentially will effect, water sources or distribution systems.
- Assist hazmat response team or EH in product analysis.
- Issue warnings or advisements to customers.

4.2.10 All Other County Staff, Local Governments, and Special Agencies

Responsibilities are as listed in Basic Plan. Any agency or person not listed will respond to requests for emergency support, during declared emergencies as Disaster Service Workers, through normal management or supervisory channels.

5. ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Reports

The agency in charge of a hazardous materials incident must submit an initial report to the State Warning Center as soon as possible containing, as a minimum: Caller's name, incident location, date/time of incident, proximity of threatened waterways or storm drains, substance and quantity, chemical name (if known), and over all description of the cause and chronology of the incident.

5.2 Cost Recovery

Upon disaster declaration, OES coordinates cost recovery requests from any authorized hazmat personnel if they responded to an incident in the unincorporated areas of the County, or in any Modoc County city or town other than Alturas. Alturas is responsible for cost recovery for incidents occurring only within its city limits. The appropriate authority determines/supervises specific costs for remediation, including time incurred. OES collects all cost recovery requests and submits the claim to the responsible party for reimbursement.

Without a disaster declaration, Modoc County collects response cost recovery requests and submits the claim to the responsible party for reimbursement.

5.3 Hazardous Materials Response Planning by the Private Sector

5.3.1 All businesses in California (unless specifically exempted) handling hazardous materials in excess of specified threshold quantities are to maintain plans and make available, on demand, hazardous materials data containing, as a minimum, the following information:

- a. Chemical name, composition, characteristics, and location.
 - b. Emergency response, evacuation, and notification procedures, and contact personnel.
 - c. Training required of anyone handling these hazardous materials
 - d. Other issues related to the release or threatened release of hazardous materials that may be helpful to responders.
- EH administers the Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) program and maintains private sector business plans. Upon request, copies are distributed by EH to the jurisdictional fire protection district or department in order to have them available in case of emergency.

6. EVALUATION AND TRAINING

6.1 Evaluation

Following significant hazmat incidents and exercises, OES will facilitate post-incident analyses, a formal After Action Review (AAR), and a Improvement Plan (IP). In addition, OES will prepare the final written reports and provide copies, as appropriate.

6.2 Training

Initial and refresher training will be consistent with all statutory, Federal, State, County and City regulations. Applicable personnel are responsible for coordinating and

ensuring attendance at hazardous materials training whether it's under the aegis of county, state or federal agencies or by commercial contract.

Law enforcement and fire agencies are responsible for conducting or managing appropriate hazmat training for their employees and maintaining training records. The Training Officer on the Program Management Team also maintains copies of training records.

Note: Incident Command at a hazmat incident can only be assumed by an individual who has been certified in a Hazmat First Responder Operations (FRO) course, and who has the knowledge and skill requirements laid out in the Code of Federal Regulations regardless of his or her organization, rank, or jurisdiction.

Hazardous materials response will be included in County sponsored exercises and cities are encouraged to do the same.

7. Appendices

- Emergency Response Procedures: Checklist for Area Plan Element
(Sample plan is in Title 19, Section 2640 CUPA)

OPTIONAL MODEL REPORTING FORM – AREA PLAN

CHECKLIST for AREA PLAN ELEMENT and reference section	ELEMENT LOCATION	ELEMENT NOT PROVIDED, JUSTIFICATION ATTACHED	PROPOSED DATE FOR COMPLETION
Section 2722 – Emergency Response Procedures			
Approach, Recognition, and Evacuation			
Personnel Monitoring and Decontamination			
Equipment Monitoring and Decontamination			
Section 2723 – Pre-Emergency Planning			
Pre-incident Site Surveys			
Planning and Coordination			
Emergency Funding Access			
Disposal Facility Access			
Emergency Response Contractor Access			
Integrated Response Management System			
Section 2724 – Notification and Coordination			
Notification and Coordination			
Emergency Communications			
Responsibility Matrix			
Cal EMA Notification			
Section 2725 – Training			
Emergency Response Personnel Training			
Training Documentation			
Training Exercises			
Section 2726 – Public Safety and Information			
Site Perimeter Security			
Safety Procedure Information			
Information Release Responsibility			
Medical Notification			
Evacuation Plans			
Section 2727 – Supplies and Equipment			
Listing and Description			
Testing and Maintenance			
Section 2728 Incident Critique and Follow-up			