

Appendix F: Emergency Planning

Response to a Hazardous Materials Release

The Oakland Fire Services Agency is responsible for on-scene management of all hazardous materials incidents. The Oakland Fire Services Agency Hazardous Materials Response Team responds by providing technical expertise, mitigation assistance and specialized equipment.

The City of Oakland has a Hazardous Materials Area Plan in place that outlines procedures for an organized response to hazardous materials emergencies to minimize exposure and/or damage to human health and safety, the environment or property. The plan was created specifically to respond to facility or transportation-related releases of hazardous materials but is appropriate for any type of hazardous materials release, including releases from soil or groundwater that pose an immediate risk. There is no specific plan for the AMCO Chemical Site (Site); any incidences at the Site will be dealt with according to the Hazardous Materials Area Plan.



Oakland Fire Services Engine

If a hazardous materials release or suspected release is reported, the Hazardous Materials Response Team responds and establishes a command post in a safe location (*see diagram on page 23 of main text*). Steps are taken to secure the area, coordinate communications, identify the hazards, assess the risks, and implement the proper controls to minimize the risk. The Oakland Fire Services Agency Incident Commander is responsible for the overall operation, which includes identifying appropriate resources such as cleanup crews, experts, technical advisors and outside agencies. A list of approved emergency response contractors is maintained to enable a timely response and cleanup action. Mutual Aid Agreements are in place with neighboring cities, the State Office of Emergency Services, and county agencies to provide resources as necessary.

The cost of the response is initially covered by the City of Oakland and supplemented by state funding sources. If the cost of cleanup to control the risk exceeds city or state funding resources, additional funding is available through federal funding administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Initial Sequence of Events During Emergency Response

- Police Dispatch notifies Fire Services Agency of a problem.
- The highest-ranking Fire Services officer arriving with the first engine onsite becomes the "Incident Commander."
- The Incident Commander provides an initial scene assessment (wind direction, chemicals involved, special hazards, etc.), secures the area, rescues

victims if rescue can be done safely, denies entry to the public, and determines if any additional resources are needed.

- The Hazardous Materials Response Team is also dispatched to the scene. The Response Team identifies the hazardous materials, assesses risks, and implements appropriate controls.
- The Response Team Coordinator works with the Incident Commander to determine if any other resources are needed.
- Once confirmation of an actual or potential hazardous materials release is made by the Incident Commander, he/she will notify other emergency responders from other Oakland departments, outside support agencies, and the California Office of Emergency Services. The Office of Emergency Services will make other notifications to state and federal agencies as required. Agencies that may be contacted include EPA, Poison Control Center, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Air Quality Management District, and California Water Quality Control Board.

The above information was excerpted and summarized from the following reference:

Hazardous Materials Area Plan for Emergency Response. City of Oakland, Fire Services Agency, Office of Emergency Services, April 1997.

EPA's Emergency Response

In 1978, the Environmental Response Team was established under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act to provide onsite, "round the clock," national expert assistance to deal with environmental emergencies. The Environmental Response Team is part of EPA's **Emergency Response Program (ERP)**. With the passage of CERCLA, EPA was further mandated to take immediate action in the

event of any chemical release that poses an imminent threat to public health and safety.

In the event of any emergency at the AMCO Chemical Site, the first responder to the scene will be the City of Oakland Fire Services Agency as indicated above. Then, depending on the magnitude of the situation, staff from the ERP as well as the Site's Project Manager may assist the City of Oakland in Site response.

EPA provides 24-hour emergency response in the event of a chemical spill. To report a spill, you can call the Region 9 spill hotline at 415-947-4400. You can also call the California Office of Emergency Services Warning Center at 800-852-7550 or the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

For more information about EPA Region 9's Emergency Response Program, contact: Peter Guria, Emergency Response Chief, at 415-972-3043. You can also send a letter to Peter Guria at 75 Hawthorne Street, Mailstop SFD-9-2, San Francisco, CA 94105.