

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**POLICY**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS**

January 1, 2003

Policy Number 4.42

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND**  
**WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EMERGENCIES**

I. POLICY

The Honolulu Police Department shall provide assistance in emergency situations involving hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Hazardous material: A substance that, because of its physical or chemical properties, can cause an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of individuals, property, and/or the environment. The United Nations has identified nine classes of hazardous materials; they include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Explosives
  2. Gases (compressed, liquefied, or dissolved under pressure)
  3. Flammable liquids
  4. Flammable solids or substances
  5. Oxidizing substances
  6. Poisonous substances
  7. Radioactive substances
  8. Corrosive substances
  9. Miscellaneous dangerous substances
- B. Hazardous material emergency: Any situation or event involving hazardous material wherein the circumstances call for immediate action to protect the public health or welfare.

- C. Public health or welfare: Anything that relates to human health or welfare, public safety, the natural environment, fish, wildlife, and public and/or private property.
- D. Spill or discharge: Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, dumping, or other release of a hazardous material.
- E. Terrorism (as defined by the U.S. Department of Justice): The unlawful use of force against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or segment thereof, in the furtherance of political or social objectives.
- F. Weapons of mass destruction (WMD): WMD include nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. Such weapons may use military chemical and biological warfare agents or radioactive materials as primary ingredients.
  - 1. Chemical agents are super toxic chemicals used to poison victims. They are similar to hazardous industrial chemicals but may be hundreds of times more toxic. There are blood agents, choking agents, blistering agents, and nerve agents.
  - 2. Biological agents are living germs (viruses, bacteria, and toxins) that will cause disease to humans and animals. These agents generally behave like chemical agents.
  - 3. Radiological materials can pose both acute and long-term hazards to humans. They also behave like some chemical agents in that they cause cell damage, but they do not necessarily have to be inhaled or come into contact with the skin to do damage.







C. Civil Defense Coordinator

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D. Specialized Services Division

[REDACTED]

E. Identification of Hazardous Material

1. Attempts shall be made to identify the hazardous material as soon as possible by any of the following methods:

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

F. Incident Command

1. When HPD officers are the first to arrive at the incident scene, they shall establish a command post and assume command of the incident. The first priority for law enforcement is public safety and preservation of life.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

G. Cleanup Responsibilities

- [REDACTED]

1. The state Department of Health is responsible for coordinating major cleanup efforts.

2. The HFD and the Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance are responsible for coordinated cleanup efforts at minor spill sites.
3. Under no circumstances will HPD personnel be involved in the actual cleanup or recovery of hazardous materials.
4. HPD personnel may continue to provide security for the scene if the need exists.
  - a. A police supervisor and the incident commander will determine when police units are no longer needed at the scene.
  - b. Site safety must be a primary concern.

H. Found-Property Cases Involving Hazardous Material

When material that is hazardous or suspected to be hazardous is turned in to or located by police officers, it shall not be taken to a police facility.

1. These cases require that the HFD be notified and inspect the material to determine if an immediate danger exists.
2. Upon mitigation of the danger, the state Department of Health is responsible for the recovery, removal, and destruction of the hazardous materials.

I. Criminal Cases Involving Hazardous Material

1. When evidence that is hazardous or suspected to be hazardous is located by police officers through a criminal investigation, it shall not be taken to a police facility unless:
  - a. Trained SIS personnel recover the sample; and



- b. Police operations are directed by investigators who are trained and certified in the handling of hazardous materials and/or clandestine laboratory investigations.
2. Proper protective equipment shall be used by all personnel at all times.

J. Vehicle Collisions Involving Hazardous Material

1. Officers investigating collisions in which a cleanup of hazardous material is required should request the services of the HFD through the Communications Division.
2. The HFD, city Department of Environmental Services, state Department of Health, and other city agencies are responsible for cleanup efforts, depending on the amount of material involved.
  - a. The HFD will determine if the amount of material to be cleaned up is within its area of responsibility.
  - b. If not, the HFD will contact the agency responsible for the cleanup.
3. HPD officers should not get involved in the cleanup of hazardous material. The HPD's responsibilities are scene safety, traffic control, evacuation, and collision investigation.
4. If it is essential to complete collision investigation work at the scene, the use of absorbent material by the HFD may be delayed.

However, if a delay would increase the risk to life and property, the HFD incident commander may proceed with spill- and leak-control measures.

IV. JURISDICTION

- A. The Oahu Civil Defense Agency may, upon request by the incident commander, coordinate the efforts of all non-police agencies involved.

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- B. The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for coordinating federal activities related to inland site emergencies involving oil and hazardous substances.
- C. The supervisor in charge of any criminal investigation involving narcotics and related hazardous materials may notify the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and request assistance if he or she deems it necessary.

BOISSE P. CORREA  
Chief of Police

Post on bulletin  
board for one week

Policy first issued  
August 16, 2001