Kern County
Operational Area

Hazardous Materials Area Plan

Kern County Environmental Health Services Division

Updated October 2014
The development of the 2014 Kern County Operational Area Hazardous Materials Area Plan was possible through the coordinated effort of the staff of the Kern County Environmental Health Services Division (KCEHSD) and the Kern County Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services (Kern County OES) and were greatly assisted by many staff from various County Agencies, City/Towns, and Departments.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2720 - PROPOSED AREA PLAN .............................................1
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2722 - EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES .................9
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2723 - PRE-EMERGENCY PLANNING .....................................20
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2724 - NOTIFICATION AND COORDINATION .......................45
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2725 - TRAINING .................................................................50
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2726 - PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFORMATION .........................60
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2727 - SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT ......................................71
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2728 - CRITIQUE AND FOLLOW UP .......................................73
SB-391 PESTICIDE DRIFT INCIDENT PROTOCOLS .................................................74

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A  Integrating Business Plan Information into the Area Plan
APPENDIX B  Kern County Fire Department’s HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT
PROCEDURES MANUAL
APPENDIX C  California Department of Pesticide Regulation – Monitoring and
Inspection Forms and Reimbursing Medical Costs of Persons Injured
In Pesticide Incidents Brochure
APPENDIX D  Assessing Cleanup Funds, Assessing State-Approved and Permitted
Disposal Facilities
APPENDIX E  Hazardous Materials Incident Response Emergency Telephone
Numbers
APPENDIX F  Public Notification, Information, and Evacuation
A. DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AREA PLAN

The use, storage, and transportation of hazardous materials and the generation and transportation of hazardous wastes are issues of increasing importance in the protection of life, the environment, and property in the Kern County Operational Area (OA). Kern County (OA) serves as the coordination and communication link between the cities and special districts within the County's boundaries at the time of a significant emergency. County government serves as the Lead Agency of the OA and the Kern County Office of Emergency Services (OES) provides oversight and administrative support to the OA. "Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment (Health and Safety Code, §25501 (o)). "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material which a handler or the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. A release is any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment, unless permitted or authorized by a regulatory agency (Health and Safety Code, §25501 (s) and CERCLA §101 (22)). The prevalence of businesses routinely storing and handling hazardous materials and hazardous wastes has promoted an increasing awareness and concern for the public's health and safety. Hazardous materials emergencies are the result of: threatened releases, highway accidents, clandestine drug laboratories, train derailments, pipeline transportation accidents, pesticide drift incidents, or related fire and/or spills at fixed facilities. The Hazardous Materials Area Plan (Area Plan) will identify local, state, and federal responsibilities during incidents involving the release or threatened release of hazardous substances. An Incident Commander (IC) has the primary responsibility and authority to activate a response consistent with the Area Plan.

The State legislature, in recognizing the risks that hazardous materials and wastes pose to emergency responders and the community, created a hazardous materials disclosure program under Chapter 6.95, Section 25500, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code. This program requires the Kern County OA – Kern County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), the Administering Agency (AA), to develop an Area Plan detailing the duties and responsibilities of governmental and other response agencies in a hazardous materials incident, including Pesticide Drift Incident Protocols. The CUPA for Kern County is the Kern County Environmental Health Services Division (KCEHSD) which is a division of the Kern County Public Health Services Department (KCPHSD). The CUPA for the City of Bakersfield is the Bakersfield Fire Department. This Area Plan provides information for agencies involved in a response to a hazardous materials incident occurring within Kern County. This Area Plan is revised and updated on a continuous 3-year cycle.

1. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

Kern County has the following hazardous materials response agreement:

- Kern County: Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement (CalOES Master Mutual Aid of California)

Kern County does not have individual mutual aid agreements related to Haz Mat since the Master Mutual Aid agreement covers all incidents. All of the Kern County mutual aid agreements are on file at the Kern County OES library in the Incidents Procedures Manual. In addition, supporting organizations to Kern County can be found in Annex B-3 of the Kern County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

2. EXISTING PLANS

There are several plans related to the Area Plan, which deal with hazardous materials emergency response at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. These plans are the National Contingency Plan, the California Hazardous Materials Incident Contingency Plan (& HMI Toolkit 2011), the Region V Local Emergency
Planning Committee (LEPC) Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan, and the Kern County OA EOP. The National Contingency Plan addresses the hazardous materials response procedures for the National and Regional Response Teams. The California Hazardous Substances Response Plan addresses the State’s hazardous materials response procedures. Also, this plan describes how funds in the Hazardous Spill Prevention Account authorized by the Public Utilities Commission Regulations, Section 7714, are used to train and equip state and local hazardous materials response teams (HMRTs). The Region V LEPC Hazardous Materials Response Plan, as mandated by Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), describes hazardous materials emergency response for the seven Region V counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare Counties. The EOP is a single-source guidance document for the preparation and response to significant or catastrophic natural, environmental, or conflict-related risks, as well as identifies organizational structures and relationships, and describes the responsibilities and functions necessary to protect life and property. The EOP establishes policies, procedures and an emergency management organization, and assigns roles and responsibilities to ensure the effective management of emergency operations within Kern County and the OA. The EOP addresses the County/Operational Area’s planned response to disasters and supports the California Emergency Plan. The plan also identifies sources of external support which might be provided through mutual aid and specific statutory authorities by other jurisdictions, State and Federal agencies, and the private sector.

Portions of several documents have been directly incorporated into this Area Plan. These documents are listed as follows:

- Kern County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, Kern County Office of Emergency Services, November 2005.
- Kern County Terrorism Response and Recovery Contingency Plan, Kern County Operational Area Emergency Council, December 2003
- FCC Emergency Alert System Communications Operations Orders, updated June 2014
- Hazardous Materials Area Plan, Kern County, Kern County Public Health Services Department, October 2011.
- NFPA 403
- Title 8 of California Occupational State Health Administration (CalOSHA)
- Curriculum from California State Training Institute (CSTI)

B. AREA DESCRIPTION

Kern County is located in southern California at the southern end of California’s San Joaquin Valley. Kern County is California’s third-largest county in land area, and at 8,172 square miles, is larger than the land area of Massachusetts, New Jersey or Hawaii. It is also larger than the areas of Delaware, Rhode Island and Connecticut combined. Elevations are at a low of 206’ above sea level along the northern border of the county to a high of 8824’ just north of the summit of Mt. Pinos (the summit is in Ventura County). The County is bordered by Los Angeles and Ventura Counties on the south, San Bernardino County on the east, Inyo, Tulare and Kings Counties on the north, and San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties on the west. Kern County is as diverse as it is large. Terrain varies dramatically within the County, from the fertile lowlands of the San Joaquin Valley, rugged mountain peaks of the southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi mountains, to the
sweeping panoramas of the Mojave Desert. Because of this diversity the county has a wide range of climates, determined largely by elevation and precipitation. Temperatures are marked by extremes, with summertime highs topping 100 degrees in the San Joaquin Valley and Mojave Desert, while winter temperatures dip into the teens during snowfalls in the higher mountains.

Its population of 839,631 (FY2010 US Census Bureau) is concentrated in urban areas and along prominent transportation routes. Several of the state’s main highway routes also pass through Kern County, including Interstate 5 and State Highway 99. The two highways branch off in the southern end of the County, where I-5 becomes the State’s principal north-south route. Highway 99 follows the eastern side of the San Joaquin Valley and serves Bakersfield and other rapidly growing cities along its route through the county. US Highway 395 and State Highway 14 are the major thoroughfares on the eastern side of the Sierras. In addition there are 10 county airports and 2 railroad lines.

The county has a large agricultural base and is a significant producer of chemicals, oil, natural gas, hydroelectric power, wind turbine power, and geothermal power. As of 2009, Kern remains California’s top oil-producing county, with 81% of the state’s 52,144 active oil wells. The county accounts for one-tenth of overall U.S. oil production, and three of the five largest U.S. oil fields are in Kern County. Kern is also noted for its mineral wealth, including gold, borate, and kernite. The largest open pit mine in California, which mines borax, is at Boron in Kern County.

Department of Defense facilities in Kern County include Edwards Air Force Base and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. The Mojave Spaceport, operated by the private industry, is also in Kern County.

Water is the lifeblood of Kern County agriculture. Kern’s main water sources include snowmelt from the Sierras that feed into the Kern River and other creeks, and the groundwater resources of the San Joaquin Valley and Mojave Desert. The Lake Isabella dam on the Kern River is the major surface water impoundment in the county. Another important man-made body of water is the California Aqueduct, which carries up to 2 million gallons of water per minute south from the Sacramento River Delta, across Kern County, and into metropolitan Los Angeles. The aqueduct is visible along portions of Interstate 5, as are powerful pumping stations that help carry its flow over the Tehachapi Mountains towards Los Angeles.

For the purposes of the plan the County has been divided into three regions that have similar geography and issues. These regions are the called the Valley, Mountain, and Desert. The Valley includes the communities that occupy the San Joaquin Valley floor. The valley portion is the western one-third of the County and is the population and agricultural center. The Mountain region includes the Sierra Nevada Range, the Tehachapi Range, Temblor Range, El Tejon Mountains, and Tecuya Ridge communities. The Desert covers the roughly one-quarter of the county in the eastern portion and includes the Mojave Desert communities. The physiographic regions, major roads, and municipalities of Kern County are displayed in the map that follows.

The vegetation and climate vary among the three zones. Generally the county is classified as desert or semiarid, with hot, dry summers and mild, humid winters. In most areas 90 percent of the precipitation occurs between November and April. The Valley averages 3 to 7 inches of precipitation annually. The western side of the Tehachapi and Sierra Nevada Ranges receive as much as 40 inches of precipitation a year. The desert averages 3 to 6 inches a year, but is extremely variable. Snowfall is rare in the desert and valley regions but may range from 1 to 4 inches. (Source: Kern County Flood Insurance Study).

Maps of the Kern County area are shown below.
C. PROVISIONS FOR INTEGRATING INFORMATION FROM BUSINESS PLANS

The disclosure program requires handlers of hazardous materials and waste to develop Hazardous Materials Business Plans (business plans) and submit electronically through the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) to KCEHSD. A Hazardous Material Business Plan (HMBP) is a document containing detailed information on the:

- Business activities;
- Business Owner/Operator and Emergency/Environmental contacts;
- Hazardous materials at a facility; site map of chemical storage;
- Emergency response plans and procedures for use in the event of a reportable release or threatened release of a hazardous material; and
- Training for all new employees and annual training, including refresher courses, for all employees in safety procedures in the event of a release or threatened release of a hazardous material. [State Law: Health and Safety Code sec 25504];
- And any other required documents as mandated by State law or local ordinance.

The intent of the HMBP is to provide basic information necessary for use by first responders in order to prevent or mitigate damage to the public health and safety and to the environment from a release or threatened release of a hazardous material. It is also intended to satisfy federal and state Community Right-To-Know laws.

The State of California requires an owner or operator of a facility (business) to complete and submit a HMBP if the facility handles a hazardous material or mixture containing a hazardous material that has a quantity at any one time during the reporting year equal to or greater than:

- 55 gallons
- 500 pounds
- 200 cubic feet at standard temperature and pressure for a compressed gas
- Hazardous waste
- Amounts of radioactive materials requiring an emergency plan pursuant to Parts 30, 40, or 70 of Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations.

Lower threshold quantities may be mandated for “Acutely or Extremely Hazardous Substances” (AHM) such as chemicals on in California Code of Regulations Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 4.5 or California Health and Safety Code Division 20 Chapter 6.95.

A facility submitting a new plan will need to complete the required documents and information required in CERS. Facilities updating their existing plan are required to do so on an annual bases. A copy of the HMBP can maintained on site or employees have easy access to the information, or in a central office in the case of remote, unmanned facilities.

The intent of the disclosure program is to provide first responders with site-specific information such as chemical inventory and facility site maps indicating location and quantities of hazardous materials and wastes (and satisfies the Community Right to Know Act). The information is obtained annually from HMBPs, which are verified by KCEHSD for integration into the Area Plan.

Each fire agency currently has business plan information for facilities in their jurisdiction. Each fire agency is given updated business plan information, provided that changes have occurred at facilities within their jurisdiction through CERS. Included in all business plans are emergency plans and employee training documentation. For emergency response purposes, CERS is creating a tab of information for first in engines.
During a hazardous materials incident this information is used to supplement the Area Plan at fixed facilities. By developing business plans, both businesses and governmental agencies may be better prepared for a coordinated response to these hazardous materials incidents, thus minimizing potential risks to life, the environment, and property.

It can be inferred from business plans on file with the KCEHSD that significant amounts of agricultural chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides) and industrial chemicals are transported through Kern County. It can be concluded that all major state and interstate highways that traverse Kern County pose a higher hazardous materials incident risk.

All business plans and revisions are available for public inspection during regular working hours, except those portions of the business plan specifying the precise location where hazardous materials are stored and handled on site. This includes any maps of the site, as required by the California Health and Safety Code, paragraph (5) of Section 25509, which will not be available for inspection.

Further information regarding integrating business plan information into the Area Plan can be found in Appendix A.

D. RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – ACUTELY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

KCEHSD has identified business facilities that handle and store acutely hazardous materials and extremely hazardous substances. Handlers of those identified materials must comply with the Risk Management Program (RMP) identified under California Accidental Release Program (CalARP) regulations. CalARP is a regulatory program designed to oversee the handling of extremely hazardous materials that, if released, would cause significant and widespread health effects and damage to the environment, health and safety. It requires that an owner or operator of a business handling more than the threshold quantity of a regulated substance, evaluate the use of the substance, to determine the potential for and impacts of an accidental release. Under the CalARP regulations these facilities must submit a RMP to KCEHSD. The RMP is used to determine the potential accident factors and to implement measures to reduce the accident potential. Some of the information included in an RMP is; safety information, process hazard analysis/hazard review, operating procedures, training, maintenance, compliance audits and incident investigations along with documents and records showing that the facility is implementing the program. This program incorporates hazard evaluation techniques and risk reduction strategies to be used by businesses to manage acutely hazardous materials. Inspections provide safety recommendations and ensure compliance with program mandates.

Businesses that handle AHM regulated under the CalARP are required to comply with the Federal Risk Management Plan and/or the California Program as appropriate. These facilities will receive inspections, risk assessment plan reviews, and audits for program compliance.

KCEHSD, at a minimum, inspects all businesses and farms subject to Chapter 6.95 of the California Health and Safety Code, at least once every three years. Initiated in 2008, KCEHSD has implemented a risk-based approach to the allocation of resources. Businesses handling moderately or extremely hazardous materials are inspected biennially or annually. All other businesses are inspected every three years.

Inspections ensure compliance with this chapter, as well as identify existing safety hazards that could cause or contribute to a release. Where appropriate, KCEHSD enforces any applicable laws and suggests preventative measures designed to minimize the risk of release of hazardous materials into the work place or environment.

In Kern County there are approximately 3,600 regulated businesses that handle hazardous materials. Approximately 17% handle moderately to extremely hazardous materials. Approximately 178 are CalARP facilities. KCEHSD regulates approximately 3,600 business plan facilities and 300 underground storage tank facilities. Facilities handling moderately and extremely hazardous materials have an associated greater chance of significant onsite and offsite consequences if the hazardous materials are released. The last
inspection date and category are used to determine inspection priority and frequency, respectively. Refer to the Kern County Inspection Guidelines.

E. REPORTING FORM FOR AREA PLAN

KCEHSD, at a minimum will meet the reporting form requirements of the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Chapter 2, Subchapter 3, Article 3. KCEHSD will demonstrate compliance through the use of the Optional Model Reporting Form - Area Plan. A page number will identify each location of the required elements. A table of contents is also included indicating the sections and appendices.
## CalOES OPTIONAL MODEL REPORTING FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHECKLIST for AREA PLAN ELEMENT and reference section</th>
<th>ELEMENT LOCATION</th>
<th>ELEMENT NOT PROVIDED, JUSTIFICATION ATTACHED</th>
<th>PROPOSED DATE FOR COMPLETION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 2722 – Emergency Response Procedures</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approach, Recognition, and Evaluation</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Monitoring and Decontamination</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Monitoring and Decontamination</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2723 – Pre-Emergency Planning</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-incident Site Surveys</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Coordination</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Funding Access</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposal Facility Access</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Contractor Access</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Response Management System</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2724 – Notification and Coordination</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification and Coordination</td>
<td>43-46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Communications</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility Matrix</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kern County OES Notification</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2725 – Training</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Personnel Training</td>
<td>48-57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Documentation</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Exercises</td>
<td>48-49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2726 – Public Safety and Information</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Perimeter Security</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Procedure Information</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Release Responsibility</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Notification</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evacuation Plans</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2727 – Supplies and Equipment</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listing and Description</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing and Maintenance</td>
<td>69-70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2728 – Incident Critique and Follow-up</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. GUIDELINES FOR APPROACH, RECOGNITION, AND EVALUATION OF RELEASES AND THREATENED RELEASES BY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL, AND DISPATCH PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

Kern County’s emergency management organization is comprised of the Kern County’s departments and Board-Governed Special Districts. The Kern County OA comprises 11 incorporated areas (cities), and 45 Special Districts that include school, recreation and park, water, community service, and other districts.

Under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), the OA is an intermediate level of the state’s emergency services organization that encompasses the County and all political subdivisions located within the geographical boundaries of the County, including Special Districts.

The OA manages information, resources, and priorities among local governments within the OA. It serves as the coordination and communication link between the local government level and regional level of state government.

It is important to note, that while an OA always encompasses the entire county area, it does not necessarily mean that the county government manages and coordinates the OA response within the County. The governing bodies of the County and the political subdivisions within the County develop the organization, structure, and operating procedures for the OA.

In Kern County, even though the County acts as lead agency, OA management and coordination are shared via operation of a mutual aid zone system. OA representation via the cities/towns will channel requests to the OA. The Kern County OES provides staff to coordinate and staff the County OA Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This ensures that information, resources, and priorities represent consensus and shared responsibilities.

Further information is provided in the Kern County Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Incident Procedures Manual located in Appendix B.

1. APPROACH

Kern County agencies responding to Hazmat incidents use an approach consistent with the Incident Command System (ICS), the SEMS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as defined by the State of California. The first emergency personnel to arrive at an incident will act as the IC until relieved by a representative of the appropriate agency. First responders are trained to respond in a defensive fashion. The order of completion of the tasks is incident specific and should be based on protecting life, the environment, and property. The primary responsibilities of these responders may include the following:

- Isolate the scene and deny entry (establish zones).
- Establish an Incident Command Post (ICP) in the support zone using NIMS, SEMS, and ICS.
- Identify the product and product characteristics (if identification can be done safely - i.e., from a safe distance).
- Assess the type of incident and request appropriate resources based on the level of emergency.
- Ensure notification of appropriate agencies.
• If necessary, rescue victims if rescue can be done safely (i.e., if proper level of protection is available.

• Provide emergency medical care, including decontamination of exposed persons.

• Determine need for protective actions (e.g., evacuation or sheltering in place).

• Conduct evacuation, if appropriate.

Upon arrival, the IC will determine the level of incident and make sure the established ICP is upwind, uphill, and/or upstream from the incident, where possible, until hazards are completely identified.

The IC will assist victims and may utilize shelter-in-place techniques as necessary to prevent further exposure to the community. If there is a risk of a pesticide exposure, the IC will contact the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner (AG) and KCEHSD. If rescue is deemed safe and necessary, then, in coordination with the AG, the IC will identify areas of safe refuge where further pesticide exposure via inhalation or dermal contact will not occur.

Site perimeter security and traffic control is the responsibility of the law enforcement agency having traffic investigative authority and should be initiated as soon as possible to minimize contamination of citizens and to allow emergency response personnel to perform their tasks without interference.

The IC will be responsible for coordinating the multi-agency operations (i.e., fire, law enforcement, KCEHSD, public works, etc.) and designating the safety officer. If pesticide related, the Kern County AG shall be notified as early as possible.

2. RECOGNITION

Recognizing the type and degree of hazard present is usually one of the first steps after arriving at an incident. The substance involved must be identified. Common sources for the identification of hazardous materials are:

• Placards

• Shipping manifests

• Visual observation

• Package labels

• Hazardous Materials Business Plans

• Pesticide application signs

• Container shapes, sizes, and/or color

• Pesticide application equipment, tarped fields, and other evidence of pesticide application nearby

• Information from drivers, shippers, operators, and/or witnesses

• Observing the signs and symptoms of possible pesticide exposure victims (Including headache, nausea, dizziness, and increased secretions such as sweating, salivation, tearing, and respiratory
secretions. Progressive symptoms include muscle twitching, weakness, tremor, in coordination, vomiting, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea.)

- Chemtrec - Chemical Transportation Emergency Center provides two types of assistance during a hazardous materials incident:
  - Relays information in regard to the specific chemical.
  - Will contact manufacturer or other expert for additional information or on-site assistance.

The IC may use the above resources to identify the substance involved (if the identification can be done safely - i.e. from a safe distance). If the incident is beyond the resources of the responding Kern County Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Response Team (HMRT), KCEHSD will be contacted to support the identification and recognition of the substance.

HMRT teams respond to hazardous materials incidents for the purpose of mitigating the release. The responding HMRT team utilizes KCEHSD during the process as technical support and for additional resources. If an incident develops beyond the capabilities of the HMRT, mutual aid would be enacted for additional help.

There are three HMRT teams in Kern County which are part of the:

- Kern County Environmental Health Services Division;
- Kern County Fire Department; and
- Bakersfield Fire Department.

In the event of a spill involving hazardous materials or waste, which constitutes an immediate threat to public health, the County Health Officer (CHO), or delegated authorities, will provide guidance to the IC, and if deemed necessary, the CHO would initiate actions to proclaim a county health emergency. Once a proclamation is made, Kern County EOC will open, if it is not already open. All coordination with Kern County OES will be done through the IC, and KCEHSD will function as a liaison with Kern County OES. Kern County OES will coordinate and provide staff to the EOC.

3. **EVALUATION**

Four levels of hazardous materials emergencies have been developed, by Kern County OES to assist in determining the level of response needed during a hazardous materials incident. The descriptions for the four levels of response: I, II, III, and IV were taken from the HMRT, Joint Powers Agreement. Emergency levels shall be established and coordinated through proper communication/dispatch protocols with all of the dispatch centers of the participating agencies. The response level is the determination of the IC, under the NIMS and SEMS. KCEHSD will provide input to the IC.

- **Level I: Investigative/Minor Incident**
  Incident response can be managed by an individual jurisdiction.

- **Level II: Unknown Substance/Additional Assistance**
  Incident response is to an unknown substance or a determination if additional assistance is required. HMRT Team activation is requested to provide additional personnel and equipment from a single jurisdiction.

- **Level III: Extended Impact**
  A HMRT Team upgrade is requested to include multiple jurisdictions and resources.
d. Level IV: Major Impact

This is the highest level of incident response. All HMRT team resources have been utilized and regional and state hazardous materials teams are requested.

4. EOC ACTIVATION PROCEDURES FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

The following County personnel are authorized to activate the County OA EOC provided that all criteria for EOC activation are met:

- Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
- County Executive Officer
- County Fire Chief/Kern County OES Coordinator
- County Assistant Chief
- Kern County OES Deputy Coordinator

An authorized individual activating the EOC must:

- Contact:
  - The Kern County OES Coordinator or their designee
  - Kern County Fire Department Communications Center
- Identify him/herself and provide a call-back confirmation telephone number if requested.
- Briefly describe the emergency/disaster situation causing the request.
- Request EOC Responder staffing at a Level II, III, or IV.
- Request notification of EOC staff.

The EOC Director will follow the activation set up procedures set forth in Management Section of the EOC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Kern County OES has developed an EOC Responder Database that consists of contact information of County Department personnel who are designated EOC Responders. The EOC Responder database may be used by Logistics Section personnel (or EOC personnel as designed by the EOC Director) when the EOC Director requests an enhanced staffing level at the EOC.

The EOC Responder Database is confidential with limited access. Kern County OES is responsible for the security and maintenance of the database.
B. MONITORING AND DECONTAMINATION GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

1. GENERAL

Emergency response personnel and equipment are subjected to various degrees of chemical contamination as a result of exposures encountered at hazardous materials incidents. Response personnel can become contaminated in a number of ways, including exposures to vapors and gases, walking or driving through released liquids, powders, or contaminated soils, and from contact with other contaminated personnel, victims, or equipment.

2. TYPES OF DECONTAMINATION

There are five types of decontamination (decon) which are described as follows:

a. Emergency Decon

Emergency decon refers to decon that is urgent, field expedient, and when there is an immediate need to remove contaminants. Most often it is done to civilians or response personnel who have had direct exposure to hazardous solids, liquids, mist, smoke, and certain gases, and who are displaying related symptoms. It is a two-stage process: the first stage consists of clothing removal and a gross two-to-five minute water rinse; the second stage is a soap-and-water scrub and rinse. Exposures to the eyes might involve flushing for 15 minutes or longer. The environment and personal modesty are not of primary importance when there are potentially life-threatening injuries/exposures; however, they will be accommodated wherever possible. Emergency decon should, if possible, take place in the least environmentally sensitive area. Rescuers should don the best available personal protective equipment (PPE) when performing emergency decon. An attempt to communicate information to lessen the victim’s fears about the emergency process and to ensure their cooperation throughout all phases of the response should be made.

b. Respiratory Decon

Respiratory decon is provided to civilians who have had an exposure to a gas, which is toxic, but poses little or no risk of secondary contamination to rescue and EMS personnel. It may be required on an emergency basis for victims displaying related symptoms. It involves removing the victims from the hazardous environment and relocating them to a clean and safe location. It may include the administration of oxygen. Bulky clothing capable of trapping gas should be removed outdoors prior to turning the victim over to medical personnel.

c. Primary Decon

Primary decon refers to that form of decon which is provided to personnel working in the Exclusion Zone or Contamination Reduction Zone. Although accelerated, it is a more thorough and detailed process than emergency decon. It is organized and conducted by the HMRT or specially trained decon teams. A Contamination Reduction Corridor is established prior to entry of the HMRT and is conducted within the Contamination Reduction Zone. This generally includes HMRT Entry and Decon Teams working in Level A or Level B protective clothing. Primary decon provides for the collection of the contaminants for analysis, treatment, or proper disposal.

d. Secondary Decon

Secondary decon refers to decon provided to civilians that may have been exposed to hazardous chemicals, but are not displaying any related symptoms of exposure. Secondary decon may also be used following emergency decon for victims displaying related symptoms.
In secondary decon, there is time to contain runoff water; communicate information to lessen the victim’s fears about the emergency process and ensure their cooperation throughout all phases of the response; provide for modesty; and properly handle the victim’s personal items. This level of decon might involve the use of tents, trailers, tarps, containment basins, and/or showers. Secondary decon is too time-consuming for victims with immediate life-threatening injuries/exposures.

e. **Equipment Decon**

Equipment decon refers to the type of decon utilized to clean equipment so that it can be returned to service. This may refer to the cleaning of equipment contaminated during mitigation of the incident.

3. **EXTENT OF DECONTAMINATION REQUIRED**

Decontamination procedures should be tailored to the specific hazards of the incident and may vary in complexity and number of steps, depending on the degree of hazard and the employee’s exposure to the hazard. Decontamination procedures for personnel and PPE will vary depending upon the specific hazardous materials or symptoms of exposure, since one procedure or method may not work for all substances. Evaluation of decontamination methods and procedures should be performed, as necessary, to assure that employees are not exposed to hazards by reusing PPE.

To achieve plan objectives and protect responders from harm or risk as a result of exposure to hazardous materials, the following general guidelines should be used when the decision to decontaminate personnel and/or equipment is made by the IC. The exact procedure to use must be determined after evaluating a number of factors specific to the incident. Factors that can affect the decontamination process are:

a. **Prevention of further contamination**

Minimizing contact with potential contaminants is essential to keep the incident from escalating.

b. **Physical and chemical properties of the hazardous material**

The very properties that make a chemical more hazardous may also make it more difficult to decon. Gases are more likely to permeate clothing and skin tissue. Liquids are harder to see and remove than powders and other solid materials. Low-viscosity liquids may permeate more readily than high-viscosity liquids. Soluble materials will be easier to decon than non-soluble materials.

c. **Amount and location of contamination**

The more of the body that has been contaminated, the more involved the decon process will be. If contaminants are located near the face, there is a greater likelihood of harm due to inhalation or ingestion. If a product is located in other body cavities, folds, nails or hair, there is greater likelihood of permeation into the body. For this reason it is recommended to start decon with the head and then work down. Eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hair, armpits, etc., need to be thoroughly decontaminated, and open wounds need to be completely irrigated.

d. **Contact time and temperature**

The longer a contaminant is in contact with an object, the greater the probability and extent of contamination. For this reason, minimizing contact time is one of the most important objectives of decon. Increase in temperature will also increase vapor production, which may in turn affect the rate of permeation.
e. **Level of protection and work function**

The Technical/Reference person and the Decon Team Leader will determine the level of protective clothing needed for the Decon Team. Risk factors may include, but are not limited to, physical state of material, the likelihood of contamination, and the task to be performed.

f. **Reasons for leaving the hazard site**

Personnel leaving the Exclusion Zone to pick up tools may require little decon. People with life-threatening medical emergencies may need very rapid emergency decon.

4. **DECONTAMINATION EQUIPMENT**

Decontamination equipment, materials and supplies are generally selected based on risk assessment. Kern County HMRT’s hazardous materials response vehicle carries decon supplies and equipment for use during most Level II and Level III hazardous materials incidents. Additional equipment available for decontamination includes, but is not limited to:

- Soft-bristle scrub brushes or long-handle brushes.
- Garden sprayers used for rinsing.
- Wading pools to hold wash and rinse solutions.
- Large plastic garbage cans or other similar containers lined with plastic bags to store contaminated clothing and equipment.
- Water storage containers.
- Mild dish washing detergent or soap in squeeze bottles.
- Sponges and absorbent pads for washing.
- Tent or curtain for privacy.
- Diking or absorbent materials to absorb spills.
- Decontamination solvents.
- Mass decon equipment.

5. **DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES**

Decontamination shall be performed whenever contamination is suspected. In the event of physical injury, heat stress, or other related health emergencies, life-saving care should be undertaken immediately.

Physical injuries can range from a sprained ankle to a compound fracture, from a minor cut to massive bleeding. Depending on the seriousness of the injury, treatment may be given at the site by trained response personnel. For more serious injuries, additional assistance may be required at the site, or the victim may have to be treated at a medical facility. Life-saving care should be instituted immediately without considering decontamination. The outside garments can be removed if they do not cause delays, interfere with treatment, or aggravate the problem. Respirators and back-pack assemblies must always
be removed. Fully encapsulating suits or chemical-resistant clothing can be cut away. If the outer contaminated garments cannot be safely removed, the individual should be wrapped in Tyvek or plastic, rubber, or blankets to help prevent contaminating the inside of ambulances and medical personnel. Outside garments are then removed at the medical facility. Every attempt should be made to wash or rinse the victim at the site prior to entering the ambulance or being received at the hospital to further prevent contamination. For minor medical problems or injuries, the normal decontamination procedure should be followed.

Heat-related illnesses range from heat fatigue to heat stroke, the most serious. Heat stroke requires prompt treatment to prevent irreversible damage or death. Protective clothing may have to be cut off. Less serious forms of heat stress require prompt attention or they may lead to a heat stroke. Unless the victim is obviously contaminated then decontamination should be omitted or minimized, and treatment begun immediately.

The Contamination-Reduction Corridor will be established at all hazardous materials incidents, involving entry operation or decontamination for victims, responders, or equipment. The Decontamination Leader, in conjunction with the Technical/Reference person, will determine the extent of preparation for decontamination based on the hazard evaluation. In some cases, a full decontamination set-up may not be necessary.

Fire department personnel trained to the First Responder Operation Decon level may be used to staff the decontamination area. Such personnel will be at the same level of protection or one level lower than the Entry Team.

All personnel and equipment entering the Exclusion Zone will be decontaminated and evaluated following final exit, if the materials are hazardous and exposure is possible. Personnel exposed to a mildly toxic material(s) or greater will follow the operations to on-site decontamination. Responders will evaluate the waste/water generated during the decontamination process. Responders will make recommendations for disposal of wastes generated.

a. **General Decontamination Procedures**

Decon setup and stages/activities are shown below for generic six-station decon. These procedures should be modified to meet the specific needs of the incident.

b. **Decontamination during medical emergencies**

In a properly functioning hazardous materials response, victims will be decontaminated in the contamination reduction zone by properly suited and protected emergency responders (Primary or Secondary Decontamination). If needed, Primary or Secondary Decontamination will include removal of wet or exposed clothing, flushing affected skin and hair with water, and soap or shampoo wash (i.e., for oily or adherent substances). However, depending on the severity of the medical problem, an Emergency Decon or Respiratory Decon may be appropriate.
1) Evaluate airway, breathing and circulation (ABCs), stabilize spine (if trauma is suspected). Establish patient airway and breathing, if indicated. Move victim(s) away from contact with hazardous materials to a clean area. Emergency responders in fully encapsulated suits (level B or A) with self-contained breathing apparatus may not be physically able to do anything more than drag victims on to a back board and then drag them out of the hot zone. If not breathing, and if physically possible to quickly accomplish, give oxygen using bag valve mask with reservoir device.

2) If ambulatory, victim should be directed to leave the hot zone, assist others with evacuation, and decontaminate him or herself following the directions below under the supervision of emergency response staff.

3) If clothing has been contaminated, carefully remove the victim’s clothing and double-bag it. Flush the entire body with plain water for as long as needed (recommended 15 minutes). Clothing contaminated with material should be removed with care taken to minimize any material becoming airborne. If circumstances, time and practice allow, a dust mask or respirator should be placed over the victim’s nose or mouth. Facial rinse should be completed prior to fitting the mask or respirator.

4) Flush exposed eyes and other body surfaces with copious amounts of plain water for two to five minutes. Eye irrigation should continue for at least 15 minutes, preferably with saline.

5) If contaminant is oily or greasy, soap and/or shampoo may be used followed by additional water flushing.

6) Clean under nails with scrub brush or plastic nail cleaner.

7) Victims are to be properly decontaminated before releasing patients to the ambulance personnel for further treatment and transport. Emergency medical personnel are to communicate information to lessen the victim’s fears about the emergency process and ensure their cooperation throughout all phases of the response. The victim’s modesty is to be protected, and personal items properly handled.

c. Decontamination of Equipment

Insofar as possible, measures should be taken to prevent contamination of sampling and monitoring equipment. Sampling devices typically become contaminated, but monitoring instruments, unless they are splashed, usually do not. Once contaminated, instruments are difficult to clean without damaging them. Any delicate instrument, which cannot be decontaminated easily, should be protected while it is being used. Equipment should be bagged, and the bag taped and secured around the instrument. Openings are made in the bag for sample intake.

1) Wooden tools are difficult to decontaminate because they absorb chemicals. They should be kept on site and handled only by protected workers. At the end of the response, wooden tools should be discarded.

2) Respiratory protection, certain parts of contaminated respirators and self-contained breathing apparatus, such as the harness assembly and leather or cloth components, are difficult to decontaminate. If grossly contaminated, they may have to be discarded. Rubber components can be soaked in soap and water and
scrubbed with a brush. Regulators and tanks must be maintained according to manufacturer’s recommendations. Persons responsible for decontaminating respirators should be thoroughly trained in respirator maintenance.

3) Heavy Equipment such as bulldozers, trucks, backhoes, bulking chambers, and other heavy equipment are difficult to decontaminate. Typically the method used to decon equipment is water under high pressure and/or to scrub accessible parts with detergent/water solution under pressure, if possible. In some cases, shovels, scoops, and lifts have been sand blasted or steam cleaned. Particular care must be given to those components in direct contact with contaminants such as tires and scoops. Wipe tests should be utilized to measure effectiveness.

4) In the event of a bio event, equipment and personnel may need to decon with a disinfectant.

d. Sanitizing of PPE

Respirator, reusable protective clothing, and other personal articles not only must be decontaminated before being reused, but also sanitized. The inside of masks and clothing becomes soiled due to exhalation, body oils, and perspiration. The manufacturer’s instructions should be used to sanitize the respirator mask. If practical, protective clothing should be machine washed after a thorough decontamination; otherwise it must be cleaned by hand.

e. Persistent Contamination

In some instances, clothing and other equipment will become contaminated with substances that cannot be removed by normal decontamination procedures. A solvent may be used to remove such contamination from equipment if it does not destroy or degrade the protective material. If persistent contamination is expected, disposable garments should be used. Qualified laboratory personnel must do testing for persistent contamination of protective clothing and appropriate decontamination.

6. DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED MATERIALS

All materials and equipment used for decontamination must be properly disposed. Clothing not completely decontaminated onsite should be secured in plastic bags before being removed from the site.

Contaminated wash and rinse solutions should be contained by using step-in-containers (for example, child’s wading pool) to hold spent solutions. Another containment method is to dig a trench about 4 inches deep and line it with plastic. In both cases, the spent solutions are transferred to drums, which are labeled and disposed off site with other substances derived on site.

7. MEDICAL MONITORING FOR HMRT TEAM RESPONSE PERSONNEL

Prior to joining the HMRT each member will go through a Baseline Physical. Each participating department of the HMRT maintains a protocol or process and assesses their members annually. The attending physician will certify that the potential team member is fit to wear PPE including respiratory protection equipment. Annually thereafter, each member will go through the Annual Review Criteria and be annually certified by the attending physician. A copy of the certification is kept in each member’s personnel file.
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2723 - PRE-EMERGENCY PLANNING

A. PROVISIONS FOR PRE-INCIDENT SURVEYS OF BUSINESS SITES

An emergency plan is required by each business that the KCEHSD inspects in accordance with Chapter 6.95, Sections 25500, et seq., of the California Health and Safety Code (An employer response plan is also required under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976). These statues encompass the employers’ responsibilities for the response plan, elements for the plan, and procedures for handling emergency incidents. The plan is also required to address how businesses will interact with public sector emergency responders. Plans are submitted to the KCEHSD then provided to the appropriate first responding agencies in the County.

In Kern County, incidents can occur in the production, use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials due to the agricultural economy, proliferation of fuel tanks, and transmission facilities, intricate canal systems, and the confluence of major surface arteries and rail systems. Incident potential is increased near roads and railways that are frequently used for the transportation of hazardous materials, as well as in areas with agricultural facilities that use store, handle, or dispose of hazardous materials.

High risk hazards specific to Kern County include possible hazardous material incidents involving agricultural chemical plants, transportation of hazardous materials through the County, pesticide drift, geothermal plants, oil and natural gas fields, large refinery complexes, military facilities, and various industrial facilities. Each fire agency is responsible for determining the necessity of pre-fire inspections. Pre-fire inspections are the responsibility of each fire agency.

KCEHSD has provided fire departments with access to CERS. KCEHSD has identified businesses that handle and store AHM and present the greatest risk to emergency responders.

Hazardous materials incidents can occur either in transit or at a fixed facility. All areas of the County are at risk, particularly where hazardous materials fabrication, processing, storage, treatment, or disposal activities are conducted. In addition to fixed site hazardous materials incidents, such incidents also occur during transportation. Areas at risk would be along highways, rail lines, pipelines, and rivers. Because major highways run through virtually every community in the County, all sections of the County are at risk. Industrial and technological threats include: hazardous materials incidents at fixed facilities; hazardous materials incidents resulting from transportation accidents; power failure; radiological incidents at fixed facilities; radiological incidents resulting from transportation accidents; structural fires; and transportation accidents of all types.

The airspace within Kern County is primarily uncontrolled airspace, with the exception of military controlled areas. Military aircraft at times may find it necessary to declare an in flight emergency or land outside of military controlled airspaces at a civilian airport or other areas. Although the aircraft may be located outside of military property, the aircraft shall remain the responsibility of the Department of Defense (DOD). Hazardous materials in the aviation industry that could be involved in hazardous materials incidents include: aviation fuels, on-board oxygen systems, de-icing chemicals, explosive devices, overspray from pesticide applications, and aircraft munitions.

Geothermal power generating plants are located in various areas of Kern County. These facilities utilize large amounts of chemicals, including isopentane and hydrochloric acid, which could result in hazardous materials incidents.

Due to the large scale of agricultural operations in Kern County, the use of pesticides presents a large source of hazardous materials. Most of the productive farmland is located on the fringe of developing areas. As a result, airborne drift of chemicals from pesticide and crop dusting may adversely affect the residential population. The use, storage, and transportation of pesticides are strictly regulated by
California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). The County AG, CalEPA, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) are the major enforcement agencies responsible for controlling and monitoring pesticide use. Monitoring and inspection forms used by the DPR as well as DPR brochure on Reimbursing Medical Costs of Persons Injured In Pesticide Incidents are contained in Appendix C.

Hazardous materials may present dangers in themselves, or they may be released to the environment, thereby causing a hazardous materials incident. Identification and handling of hazardous materials is a specialized area of emergency management, and coordination between general emergency management and hazardous materials specialists is critical.

Inter-agency coordination is critical to the effectiveness of the OA. The coordination effort will require multiple approaches that represent varying points on a continuum and differ by degrees of effort, commitment, cost, and objectives.

B. **PROVISIONS FOR PRE-EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION AMONG EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL WITHIN THE JURISDICTION**

Pre-emergency planning shall include coordination of emergency response and emergency assistance between contiguous jurisdictions.

1. **AREA PLAN COMMITTEE**

   The Kern County Area Plan Committee is composed of representatives from the following agencies: Kern County CUPA (KCEHSD), Kern County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services (Kern County OES), Kern County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Kern County Sherriff’s Department, California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Fish and Game, Kern County Roads Department, County of Kern Agricultural and Measurement Standards Office (Agricultural Commissioner's Office), and the Kern County District Attorney’s office. The Area Plan Committee was established to coordinate pre-planning, Area Plan maintenance, and to revise the Area Plan. The 2014 Area Plan is based on the EOP, the guidance from the California Emergency Management Agency (CalOES), and input from the Area Plan Committee.

   This Area Plan has been reviewed and approved by the members of the current Area Plan Committee.

2. **AREA PLAN MAINTENANCE**

   The Area Plan will be reviewed and revised every three years by the KCEHSD in cooperation with the Kern County OES as required by the Health and Safety Code. The revision process will be in conjunction with input from an Area Plan Committee, and appropriate city, county, and state agencies. In the interim, the Plan will be maintained through the coordination with local, state, and federal agencies in addition to reviewing actual responses and the ongoing collection of new data. Any changes will be reviewed and approved by the Area Plan Committee and appropriate agencies. Revisions will be routed to all agencies on the Area Plan Distribution List and forwarded to CalOES.

C. **PROCEDURES TO ACCESS LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE**

1. **RECOVERY**

   The recovery phase restores the area impacted by the hazardous materials incident to its pre-emergency condition and may include measures such as physical restoration and reconstruction; cleaning up of contaminated areas; debris removal; treating contaminated groundwater and surface water; providing
health and safety information; and eliminating and/or reducing any known hazards. Recovery operations include both short-term and long-term activities.

a. **Short-Term Activities**

The major objectives of short-term recovery operations include debris removal and cleanup; restoration of essential services; reestablishment of transportation routes; expanded social, medical, and mental health services; and restoration of local government to at least minimum capacity.

b. **Long-Term Activities**

The major objectives of long-term recovery operations include coordinated delivery of social and health services; effective integration of mitigation strategies into recovery planning to ensure a maximum reduction of vulnerability to future incidents; and recovery of disaster response costs.

Recovery Operations in Kern County will be managed and directed by the OA Coordinating Officer (from the County Administrative Office). The Kern County OES Coordinator, Kern County OES staff, and other designated county staff will assist the Coordinating Officer in facilitating and leading the recovery process. A recovery operations organization chart for Kern County as outlined in the EOP is shown on the next page.
The IC, under advice from KCEHSD, will take all necessary steps to ensure restoration of the scene to a normal condition after a hazardous materials incident. The HMRT team provides mitigation measures to hazardous materials incidents. KCEHSD oversees cleanup operations. Kern County agencies will not accept financial responsibility for cleanup. Steps include, but are not limited to the following criteria:

- If the incident occurs on a State highway, the IC will contact the responsible party (RP), i.e., trucking company, chemical company, facility owner, etc., inform them of their obligation to mitigate the incident and give them the opportunity to provide their own clean up service, as well as contract with a registered hazardous waste hauler. The IC will also notify CalTrans in order to
obtain their services for traffic control. The IC will coordinate with KCEHD and CalTrans to ensure that the RP has the appropriate measures and resources to clean up the release.

- If the incident occurs on a county road or on private property, the IC will coordinate with KCEHD to contact the RP, inform them of their obligation to mitigate the incident and give them the opportunity to provide their own clean up service, as well as contract with a registered hazardous waste hauler.

- KCEHSD will confirm adequacy of the clean up, which may involve removal or treatment of the waste. KCEHSD will determine when the site is safe for reoccupation, and when the hazmat incident is over in the county.

- If mitigation cannot be completed, post "Warning Hazardous Substance" signs or tape in a conspicuous location near the incident until clean up is accomplished. The IC, in conjunction with the HMRT Team Supervisor and KCEHSD, will make this decision.

The IC has overall responsibility to maintain surveillance of the scene and ensure adherence to applicable regulations.

2. RECOVERY OF DAMAGES, CLEAN UP COSTS, AND FUNDING

KCEHSD, as the designated Administering Agency, may, if necessary, pursue all appropriate legal avenues through the County District Attorney to initiate action against the spiller/RP to recover all costs incurred. Further information is provided in Appendix D for Assessing Cleanup Funds, Accessing State-Approved and Permitted Disposal Facilities.

The IC shall be responsible for supplying all appropriate agencies with a copy of the incident report so that the state and/or local agencies may take the necessary steps to recover costs associated with the clean up and disposal of a hazardous waste.

Spills or incidents occurring on private property shall be the responsibility of the property owner and/or the RP causing the spill. All costs associated with response and recovery from a spill or incident, be it public or private, shall be the responsibility of the property owner and/or the responsible party causing the spill.

When an RP or property owner cannot be reached or is uncooperative (for a minor incident on private property or on a public road), the IC will make a determination if local or state funding is available and can be allocated for clean up. Clean up costs are to be recovered later.

If a cooperative RP cannot be contacted and the incident is a major one requiring a costly clean up, state Superfund funding should be considered. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), and DTSC, administers the Emergency Reserve Account created by the California Superfund. KCEHSD and the Kern County OES can assist in this effort.

Senate Bill 391 (Florez) was signed into law in 2004 and provides that if a pesticide use violation causes illness or injury, violators will be legally responsible to pay certain medical costs to the victims. The DPR has developed a brochure on the eligibility for medical cost reimbursement for this purpose (Appendix C).

3. ENFORCEMENT

In situations where a state or federal response team directs on-scene operations, that team shall be responsible for enforcement of appropriate laws and regulations. When city or county personnel direct on-scene operations, any required post incident enforcement shall be taken through the appropriate public agency. Regardless of which agency directs operations, Kern County shall ensure that
responsible parties or businesses have the “cradle to grave” focus for the disposal of any hazardous wastes.

D. PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO STATE APPROVED AND PERMITTED HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES AND EMERGENCY CONTRACTORS

It is the responsibility of the IC to make certain that the spilled material is to be transported in an approved manner and in conformance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49 and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22. KCEHSD personnel will be available for advice on these technical issues, as well as for locations of approved hazardous waste disposal sites.

E. DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED RESPONSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROVIDING STANDARDIZED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, TERMINOLOGY, AND PROCEDURES FOR USE DURING A RELEASE OR THREATENED RELEASE

1. ORGANIZATION

The local organization, which will respond to a hazardous materials incident, is structured to provide a multi-agency response using NIMS and SEMS. For major incidents, the State would be accessed to provide support to local response as coordinated through the ICS. The level of the response, skills necessary to abate the problem, and hence agencies participating in the emergency organization, will be geared to the nature of each specific hazardous materials incident. On incidents involving multiple agencies or jurisdictions, the use of a unified command structure is encouraged.

KCEHSD coordinates pre-emergency planning with the various emergency response agencies. This coordinated effort has been formalized through the creation of the Area Plan Committee. KCEHSD and the Area Plan Committee are responsible for pre-planning of hazardous materials responses within the incorporated cities and unincorporated areas of Kern County. This includes the coordination of emergency assistance between jurisdictions.

This Area Plan describes the existing structure for countywide response to spills, releases, or threatened releases of hazardous materials and waste. Agencies and individuals that have responsibilities in response operations involving hazardous materials are listed as follows, in no significant order:

a. Local Agencies
   1) County Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
   2) Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
   3) Board of Supervisors
   4) City Managers or Administrators
   5) City Councils
   6) Mayors
   7) County Planning Department
8) Sheriff's Department and City Police Departments
9) Fire Warden, Fire Departments and Fire Districts
10) Public Works Departments (county and cities)
11) Kern County Office of Emergency Services (Kern County OES)
12) Kern County Public Health Services
13) Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
14) County Agricultural Commissioner
15) Kern County Environmental Health Services Division (KCEHSD)
b. State Agencies
   1) California Highway Patrol (CHP)
   2) California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
   3) California Emergency Management Agency (CalOES)
   4) CAL-Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
   5) Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
   6) Department of Geothermal, Oil and Gas (DOGGR)
   7) Department of Fish and Wildlife (DF&W)
   8) Department of Water Resources (DWR)
   9) Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)
  10) Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)
  11) Cal OSHA
  12) California Department of Resources, Recycle, and Recovery
  13) Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
  14) Attorney General
  15) Department of Forestry
  16) National Guard
  17) State Lands Division
c. Federal Agencies
   1) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
2) United States Coast Guard
3) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
4) Department of Energy (DOE)
5) Department of Defense (DOD)
6) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Department of Commerce, NOAA)
7) Department of the Interior
8) Department of Transportation (DOT)
9) Department of Homeland Security
10) U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) / Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
11) Depts. of the Navy and Air Force
d. Non-Governmental Agencies
   1) Private facility owners
   2) American Red Cross/Salvation Army
   3) Private industry representatives, especially hazardous waste haulers and cleanup companies
   4) Local hospitals, ambulances, and medical facilities

2. ROLE DEFINITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

The ICS is the standardized management system utilized in handling emergencies. ICS is an integral element of NIMS. ICS is applicable to large and small hazardous materials incidents. The ICS consists of structures and procedures for controlling personnel, facilities, equipment and communication.

a. Incident Commander (IC)

The IC shall assume overall management, coordination, and responsibility over a hazardous materials incident. The IC shall be responsible for identification of incident resources and needs; procurement of the resources so as to abate the incident; and protection of life, environment, and property. Request for assistance from private agencies shall be authorized only by the IC.

The IC shall not be responsible for the detailed direction of technical or specialized procedures, but shall oversee that these procedures are carried out when needed. Scene management decisions are to be made with the assistance of the Operations Chief, expert advisors, specialty employees, and the CHO or representative.

The IC shall be (unless otherwise agreed by a memorandum of understanding [MOU]):

- CHP: All incidents on state roads or highways.
- Sheriff: All incidents off highways in the unincorporated areas.
• Police Departments: All incidents on roadways within incorporated city limits.

• Kern County Fire Department: All incidents on private or public property in unincorporated areas.

• Local Fire Department: All incidents on private or public property in incorporated city limits.

b. Safety Officer

The IC will designate the safety officer. This person is responsible for assuring the overall safety of all operations performed at the incident by all agencies. This will be done with respect to the highest levels of safety and health. The Safety Officer will report directly to the IC.

c. Joint Information Center (JIC)

The Joint Information Center (JIC) serves as the conduit for information to internal and external stakeholders, including the media or other organizations seeking information directly from the incident or event.

d. Operations Section Chief

The Operations Section Chief is tasked with directing all actions to meet the incident objectives.

e. Planning Section Chief

The Planning Section Chief is tasked with the collection and display of incident information, primarily consisting of the status of all resources and overall status of the incident.

f. Finance/Administration Section Chief

The Finance/Administration Section Chief is tasked with tracking incident related costs, personnel records, requisitions, and administrating procurement contracts required by Logistics.

g. Logistics Section Chief

The Logistics Section Chief is tasked with providing all resources, services, and support required by the incident.

h. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS personnel will work under the direction of the Operations Chief to provide emergency medical care to victims. These emergency incidents, which result in injuries requiring on-scene medical care, are either on or off the highway.

i. State Agency Coordinator (SAC)

When state resources are deemed necessary, the IC will approve the order and the Operational Area Coordinator will make the request to the State via SEMS and/or State Master Mutual Aid Agreements. The State will assist in mitigating the effects of a hazardous materials incident. An individual from the State is assigned to plan and coordinate on-scene operations of state resources.
3. **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL AGENCIES**

   a. Local Law Enforcement (Sheriff and Police)

   1) The authority for the management of the scene of an on-highway spill is vested in the appropriate law enforcement agency having primary traffic investigative authority on the highway where hazardous material incidents occur. Section 360 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) defines a “highway”. Generally, IC authority rests with the city police department in incorporated areas and with the CHP in the unincorporated areas on state highways, freeways, and roads. The authority for the management of off-highway spills within the unincorporated areas will be the Sheriff’s Department. However, pursuant to CVC 2454b, any law enforcement agency having primary traffic investigative authority may enter into written agreements with other public agencies to facilitate incident command at the scene of an on-highway hazardous substance incident on local streets and roads other than freeways.

   2) The local law enforcement agency:

   - Ensures incident security.
   - Coordinates supporting law enforcement activities.
   - Identification of substance. First unit on scene will, to the extent of its capability, initiate the identification and notify all public and private agencies concerned with the emergency. (Communications will assist in notifying the KCEHSD and other support agencies upon request).
   - Prevents handling of unknown or suspected hazardous materials until positively identified by qualified personnel, under the direction of the Operations Chief.
   - Establishes scene control, traffic control, area security, and crowd control throughout the operation (setting up control points, isolate and deny entry).
   - Determines the need for law enforcement mutual aid.
   - Supervises handling of explosive devices.
   - Establishes the ICP and coordinates the activities of resources/agencies involved in the incident and establishes and maintains close coordination with the Operations Chief and KCEHSD representatives on the scene.
   - Conducts evacuation if advised by other appropriate agencies (KCEHSD and/or Fire agencies) or in situations where personnel from these departments are not available and the requirement is obvious. Resources available to aide that decision should include business plan information available from computers in the Fire Department and KCEHSD Hazardous Materials Response Vans. Additional resources should include CHEMTREC or any other credible technical resources.
   - Assist rescue operations and handling of the injured in cooperation with fire departments, ambulance services, and the Kern County EMS.
• Provide assistance (emergency transportation, access to closed areas, radio use, etc.) to technical advisors summoned by the IC.

• Designates a JIC to ensure that the news media and the public are correctly informed.

• Resolves role and authority conflicts when there is a disagreement between two or more responding agencies.

• Collects and preserves all evidence. Due to the complexity of hazardous waste laws, the KCEHSD representative should be consulted for all hazardous materials collection, preservation, and analysis needs.

• When designated IC, complete the California Hazardous Material Incident Report Form, gathering input from all other officially recognized responders. When responding in support of another agency, will provide input to ensure a complete report to CalOES.

• Provides KCEHSD with a copy of the final after-action report.

• Supports a local hazardous material response and IC training program.

b. Fire Services: (Fire Districts, and City Fire Departments)

1) The local fire services include all fire departments and districts located within Kern County, including the Kern County Fire Department. Fire suppression and prevention is a primary responsibility of the local chiefs. Many fires involve hazardous chemicals and flammable liquids, which must be handled carefully.

2) The designated fire official arriving on the scene of a hazardous materials incident will assume the duties of IC until local law enforcement arrives on scene.

3) The local fire service:

• Assumes the role of Incident Commander for off-highway hazardous materials incidents, or when delegated by law enforcement.

• Manages all fire suppression equipment.

• Identifies perimeter lines to protect the public from contamination.

• Takes all feasible steps to protect life and prevent the spread of contamination.

• Initiates initial incident assessment, assisting with on-scene material identification using available systems.

• Advises the IC by providing information derived from business plans regarding notification, evacuation, prevention, mitigation, and specific inventories.
• Assists rescue operations, basic victim decontamination, first responder decontamination, and handling of injured in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, KCEHSD, ambulance services, and EMS.

• Prevents handling of all unknown or suspected hazardous materials until positively identified by qualified personnel.

• Initiates containment operations as required, in coordination with KCEHSD on-scene representatives.

• Coordinate medical activities with the ambulance services and EMS when large numbers of victims are involved, contamination is a concern, when lengthy transportation times are a factor, and/or when several jurisdictions are responding to an incident (The Kern County Med-Alert system will be used for multi-casualty and mass casualty management. The system entails an activation phase, which defines criteria for calling Med-Alert; a notification phase, which defines how EMS is alerted; and four distinct stages of medical disaster operations, which are structured dependent on the scope of the situation).

• Coordinate on-scene acquisition of support equipment (lights, generators, necessary heavy equipment, special rescue materials, etc.).

• Work with KCEHSD and EMS personnel to provide monitoring and decontamination for victims and emergency responders, following the guidelines in the Kern County Fire Department’s Hazardous Materials Incident Procedures Manual (Appendix B).

• When designated as IC, completes the California Hazardous Material Incident Report Form, gathering input from all other officially recognized responders. When responding in support of another agency’s IC, provide input to ensure a complete report to CalOES.

• In conjunction with the District Attorney, KCEHSD, and other agencies, assist in incident investigation, and when appropriate, prosecution.

• Conducts periodic on-site inspections of businesses and users of hazardous materials.

• Requests assistance from KCEHSD and other appropriate agencies.

• Provides copy of agency report to KCEHSD.

• Supports a local hazardous material and Incident Commander training program.

Kern County Environmental Health Services Division (KCEHSD)

1) KCEHSD has the responsibility of protecting public health and the environment from releases or threatened releases of hazardous materials or hazardous waste. KCEHSD is the Administering Agency for the Area Plan and the CUPA for Kern County. It has the responsibility and authority to oversee mitigation and enforcement activities resulting from hazardous materials incidents.
2) As the designated Administering Agency under state hazardous material's disclosure law, KCEHSD must be notified immediately of any release or threatened release of hazardous materials within the boundaries of the county. This notification should be done by the business owner/operator or by the IC.

3) When requested by the responsible party, Fire, Law Enforcement, and other agencies, KCEHSD will:

- Respond and provide technical expertise.
- Maintain emergency-response vehicles, equipment, and qualified hazardous materials responder to respond 24 hours a day upon notification.
- Provide technical information, and public-health risk assessment, including immediate and long-term health effects, potential environmental impacts, evacuation requirements, and proper methods of cleanup or remedial action by responsible parties.
- Notify and provide information to the CHO in support of his/her decision to declare a State of Local Public Health Emergency when such actions may be considered or necessary. The information provided to the CHO shall include incident evaluation and risk assessment related to both long and short term health and environmental effects.
- Direct, or perform as necessary, sampling and collection of evidence as required in supporting any legal action that becomes necessary.
- Provide field hazard categorization and analytical instruments to facilitate the rapid identification of unknown materials and risk assessment. Provide outside contract lab for identification of unknowns when appropriate.
- In coordination with EMS, assist medical providers (ambulance crews and hospital staff) in coping with patient and responder decontamination.
- Liaison with CalEPA, Federal EPA, and other relevant environmental regulatory agencies as necessary.
- Access state or federal superfund accounts through the CalEPA Department of Toxic Substance Control Division to fund cleanup and removal during emergencies that meet applicable state or federal criteria. Maintain on-scene contractor supervision when superfund accounts are accessed.
- As a representative and agent of the Kern County CHO, determine cleanup/decontamination completion and declare area safe for public re-entry and re-use.
- Assist the IC in compiling the final incident report and complete reports as needed.
- In conjunction with the District Attorney, Fire, and other agencies, investigate or participate in an incident investigation.
- Support a local hazardous material incident training program.
4) Oversee submittal of Business Plans by businesses handling hazardous materials, including the following:

- Maintaining an inventory of locations of hazardous materials in the County and making this information available to emergency response agencies.

- Checking and maintaining emergency response plans prepared by the local businesses to ensure compatibility with the County area response plan.

- Reviewing and updating the area plan every three years at minimum or at any other time when deemed necessary.

- KCEHSD will investigate and take enforcement actions involving violations of Health and Safety Codes relating to hazardous materials.

d. **County Health Officer (CHO)**

1) The CHO is the Chief of Medical and Health Services within the emergency organization and is responsible for coordinating treatment of injuries resulting from any hazardous materials incident within the county and cities. The CHO also has the authority under the Health and Safety Code, Sections 452 and 505, to take any preventative measures, which may be necessary to protect and preserve the public health.

2) The CHO provides emergency medical resources, including ambulance dispatch and hospital receiving for hazardous materials spills involving human exposure. The CHO (or his/her representative):

- Maintains control over the performance of public health disease control activities, disease reporting, disease investigation, and imposition and quarantine measures.

- Collects and analyzes data on the symptoms of exposed victims.

- Collaborates with local medical resources and EMS for the provision of medical care services to patients needing medical attention.

- In conjunction with EMS, assists hospitals and ambulance companies in coping with possible contamination problems.

- Determine when clean-up/decontamination is complete and the area safe for reentry.

- Proclaims a "Health Emergency" and coordinate, as necessary, State agencies, private enterprise, shippers of hazardous materials, and research scientific manuals to obtain and disseminate technical information.

- Provides public information and education on the medical implications of the accident, through the JIC.

- In coordination with the AG, identifies areas of safe refuge where further pesticide exposure via inhalation or dermal contact will not occur, and assist in the coordination of an evacuation, if deemed necessary by emergency response personnel.
 Obtains data on the clinical outcome of all exposed persons and on possible health effects for such exposure.

 Provides follow-up and appropriate referral.

 Coordinates the actions of volunteer agency organizations related to health care agencies.

 3) The CHO has an existing contact list for hospitals, clinics, private doctors, etc. and will take the lead role in providing information on eligibility for medical cost reimbursement for victims of non-occupational pesticide drift exposure. The DPR has developed a brochure on the eligibility for medical cost reimbursement for this purpose (Appendix C).

e. County Agricultural Commissioner (AG)

 The AG is responsible for the regulation of pesticides in the County. This office provides for proper and safe pesticide use while protecting the public and the environment from potential adverse effects due to pesticides.

 Will assist in identification to confirm the involvement of agricultural chemicals. When the suspected material is potentially an agriculture product the AG will be notified and will assist the KCEHSD and the CHO in determining the best action. The AG will advise of potential hazards (toxicity, pervasiveness, etc.) and safety precautions to follow when handling known pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, nematocides, defoliants, rodenticides, avicides, and plant growth regulators). The AG or any agricultural personnel or responder may also initiate a hazmat response.

 When the suspect material is potentially an agricultural product and cannot be immediately identified, will assist KCEHSD representative in determining the best response strategies.

 For released substances suspected of being pesticides, the AG's office will provide technical assistance and recommend clean up if required. The AG may also make the determination of whether or not an event should be escalated.

 The AG will coordinate with the IC and KCEHD to identify areas of safe refuge where further pesticide exposure via inhalation or dermal contact will not occur, and assist in the coordination of an evacuation, if deemed necessary by emergency response personnel.

 Maintain current listings and access to local manufacturers who maintain emergency response team for their product.

 The AG's office will investigate and prosecute all cases involving violation of laws pertaining to the safe use of pesticides as related to the hazardous material incident in question.

 Assist the IC in compiling a final report and the California Hazardous Material Incident Report Form.

 The AG should be aware of heavily used agricultural chemicals (other than baits that are used frequently at low rates), and identify those fumigants which are known to drift or volatize and are applied at high rates per acre. A list of these chemicals should be provided to the KCEHSD, Fire Departments, and local law enforcement (The Kern County Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards does not regulate nor
track fertilizers). These chemicals will be cross-referenced by trade name and/or synonym as also found in the Crop Protection Handbook, which is carried on the Hazardous Materials Response vehicles in their reference library. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) will also be made available for the reference library for the substances on this list, supplemented with information from a total of at least three reference sources. This will help provide immediate access to pesticide specific information, including proper decontamination procedures and emergency medical treatment procedures based on chemical name, common name, and/or trade name being known.

- Support a local hazardous material incident training program.

f. County Public Works Director (or equivalent)

1) Public Works in the County and/or cities are responsible for maintaining roads and highways within their jurisdictions.

i. Roads Department

   a. Provide the IC with an immediate assessment of the short-term traffic impact for all road spills, and actively assist with traffic control problems by providing staff and equipment as required.

   b. Furnish equipment and supplies by contract to support containment operations initiated by IC.

   c. Provide the IC with information on drainage area influence when wash down operations/spill runoff is a consideration.

   d. Assist in estimating cleanup costs by providing data on normal road repair requirements (equipment, time, costs, etc.).

   e. County Road Department personnel will coordinate with the IC and KCEHSD in obtaining equipment, trained personnel, and the proper method of removing any material within their area of responsibility.

   f. Supply data to support an IC’s final report and the California Hazardous Material Incident Report form.

   g. Support a hazardous material training program.

2) Local water supply agencies are responsible for the maintenance of community water systems. These agencies should be notified if water contamination is possible or imminent.

   g. Kern County Office of Emergency Services (Kern County OES)

   The Kern County OES is part of the Kern County Fire Department. Hazardous materials incidents that escalate to the extreme of requiring the activation of the EOC and a proclamation of disaster will be directed and controlled from within the EOC by the Director of Emergency Services (Fire Chief). Less severe incidents will be managed by the IC, Operations Chief and supported by the Kern County OES. Responsibilities include:

   - When evacuations occur, coordinate reception and care requirements with county and local volunteer agencies.
• Assist with public notification of evacuation notices via the ReadyKern system.

• Responsible for notifying State Warning Center.

• Determine the need for, and coordination of, local disaster declarations.

• Kern County OES (through Kern County Department of Human Services [KCDHS]) will contact the American Red Cross and arrange housing and shelter when evacuation is necessary.

• Assist the administering CUPA in all initial phases of planning to ensure compatibility with all hazard plans.

• Provide the IC with information necessary for the final Incident Report and the California Hazardous Material Report Form.

h. Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT)

The HMRT team was created through the formation of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and establishes the first joint county-wide emergency response for hazardous incidents. The JPA includes the Cities of: Arvin, Bakersfield, Delano, Maricopa, McFarland, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, and Wasco; the County of Kern Fire and Environmental Health Departments, and the Kern Delta Water District. California City is considered a mutual aid agreement and is not in the JPA agreement. The HMRT team is formed from personnel from the Kern County Fire Department, the Bakersfield Fire Department, and KCEHSD. The response role of HMRT is isolation/containment, identification, mitigation, and stabilization of a hazardous materials incident.

i. General Services (Communications)

• Upon notification, make repairs to communication equipment as necessary.

j. Kern County Public Health Services Department (KCPHSD)

• Assist KCEHSD, when requested, in determining long-term health hazards

• Document the occurrence of symptoms among exposed persons (emergency responders and the general public) and conduct long-term evaluation of such exposures, where appropriate.

• Mobilize the necessary quantity of public health staff and volunteers to efficiently respond to public health threats and emergencies.

• Facilitate access to community mental health, social services, and other necessary services to ensure universal accessibility for specific needs population during a crisis.

• Manage crisis emergency risk communications with the media and public in conjunction with the JIC.

• Provide information necessary for the IC to submit the California Hazardous Material Report Form.
• Respond and support the IC in any incident involving suspected bioterrorism agents.

k. Kern County Emergency Medical Services Division (EMS)

• Upon activation of a Med-Alert for hazardous materials exposure, the EMS duty officer is notified and coordinates EMS resources.

• The Department Operations Center (DOC) is activated in the event of a mass casualty medical response (primarily when large numbers of victims, contaminated victims, and/or several jurisdictions are involved).

• Coordinate ambulance dispatching and patient destination determination.

• Obtain necessary medical information related to specific chemicals involved in the incident (through contact with KCEHSD, an accredited Poison Control Agency, or other special contacts), and provide this information to the receiving hospital(s).

• In conjunction with KCEHSD, assist hospital staff and ambulance crews manage potential patient, responder, and facility decontamination issues.

• Assist the IC as requested

• Support a local hazardous material incident training program.

l. District Attorney

• The District Attorney’s Office will provide information and/or personnel as requested to assist the lead investigating agency in any criminal environmental investigation and will conduct pre-trial investigations as needed subsequent to a filing of a criminal complaint.

• The District Attorney may also be called upon to initiate any of a number of civil actions for matters such as recovery of expenses incurred in the enforcement of environmental crimes. As it relates to violations of controlled substance and manufacturing statutes, the District Attorney shall also institute and maintain the proceedings for the forfeiture of seized property (H&S 11488.1)

• Under specific circumstances and at the request of the lead investigating agency, the District Attorney will provide the assistance of a criminalist(s) from the Forensic Science Division who has the required training and expertise in the area of hazardous materials, including but not limited to clandestine narcotic labs.

• The District Attorney will support the hazardous material training program.

m. Coroner – Kern County (a division of the Sheriff’s Department)

• The Coroner has the responsibility for determining the circumstances, manner, and cause of death in all fatalities involving hazardous materials. (See California Government Code 27491, for all deaths requiring inquiry by the Coroner.)

• When notified of any deaths due to hazardous materials, the responding investigator will ascertain the number of deaths known at the time and the type of hazardous material involved. The bodies of deceased persons shall not be moved or disturbed from their positions without permission from the Coroner.
• An investigator or investigative team will respond to the scene and coordinate with the IC to ascertain possible hazards to the Coroner staff and to facilitate an orderly removal/disposition of the remains. They will coordinate requests for special facilities with the IC.

• As Coroner staff has limited specialized chemical safety equipment, Kern County Fire Department and Kern County Environmental Health shall advise Coroner staff about the scene hazards and the plan to recover and decontaminate the decedents prior to the removal from the scene to the designated staging area. Kern County Fire Department and Kern County Environmental Health shall take photos, as needed, to identify the scene for Coroner staff should the decedent have to be moved for decontamination.

• No personal property of deceased persons shall be removed or collected from decedents without Coroner permission and shall remain with the body.

• Coroner staff will be at the designated staging area identified by Kern County Fire Department and Kern County Environmental Health to exam, identify, and tag the decedents upon conclusion of the decontamination process.

• Remains and personal property of deceased persons will be transported to the Kern County Coroner’s Facility or designated staging areas for processing by Coroner staff or their designees after the remains and personal property have been decontaminated from the chemical hazard.

• Coroner staff will process the remains to determine identification and cause of death. The Coroner staff will make notification to the next of kin and release the personal property.

• The Coroner will provide input for the IC to complete and finalize a report of the incident and the California Hazardous Material Incident Report Form.

• The Coroner will participate in appropriate post-incident critiques.

• The Coroner will assist in the post-incident evaluation and any necessary revision of specific duties and/or assignments for future incidents.

• The Coroner will support an interagency hazardous material training program.

• The Coroner shall report the cause of all deaths related to hazardous materials emergencies to the County Public Health Officer.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE AGENCIES

a. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

1) The CHP has primary responsibility for traffic supervision and control on designated state highways/freeways, state owned vehicular crossings, and county roads and highways within the unincorporated areas of the county. The designated officer present at the scene of a hazardous materials incident will assume the duties of IC and maintain a close liaison with the Operations Chief. The CHP does not relinquish incident command authority at incidents where they have jurisdiction.

2) The CHP:
- Ensures incident security.
- Coordinates supporting law enforcement activities.
- Identification of substance. First unit on scene will, to the extent of its capability, initiate the identification and notify all public and private agencies concerned with the emergency. (Communications will assist in notifying the KCEHSD and other support agencies upon request).
- Prevents the handling of unknown or suspected hazardous materials until positively identified by qualified personnel, under the direction of the Operations Chief.
- Establishes scene control, traffic control, area security, and crowd control throughout the operation (setting up control points and road blocks as required).
- Determines the need for law enforcement mutual aid.
- Supervises handling of explosive devices.
- Establishes the ICP and coordinates the activities of resources/agencies involved in the incident and establishes and maintains close coordination with the Operations Chief and KCEHSD representatives on the scene.
- Conducts evacuation if advised by other appropriate agencies (KCEHSD representative) or in situations where personnel from these departments are not available and the requirement is obvious. Resources available to aide that decision should include business plan information available from computers in the Fire Department and KCEHSD Hazardous Materials Response Vans. Additional resources should include CHEMTREC or any other credible technical resources.
- Assist rescue operations and handling of the injured in cooperation with fire departments, ambulance services, and the Kern County EMS.
- Provide assistance (emergency transportation, access to closed areas, radio use, etc.) to technical advisors summoned by the IC.
- Designates a JIC to ensure that the news media and the public are correctly informed.
- Resolves role and authority conflicts when there is a disagreement between two or more responding agencies.
- Collects and preserves all evidence. Due to the complexity of hazardous waste laws, the KCEHSD representative should be consulted for all hazardous materials collection, preservation, and analysis needs.
- When designated IC, complete the California Hazardous Material Incident Report Form, gathering input from all other officially recognized responders. When responding in support of another agency, will provide input to ensure a complete report to CalOES.
• Provides KCEHSD with a copy of the final after-action report.

• Have personnel available and trained in Force Protection for hazardous materials incidents to protect response personnel, control perimeter and visible law enforcement presence within the incident boundaries.

• Have personnel trained in Environmental Crime Investigation to assume the lead role of hazardous materials investigations for incidents within its jurisdiction.

• Supports a local hazardous material response and IC training program.

b. California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

• CalOES is responsible for general planning, notification and coordination of state agencies, and mutual aid response to hazardous materials incidents.

• They will, after notification by local authorities, notify all appropriate state agencies and federal agencies. CalOES will coordinate State mutual aid.

• The CalOES Warning Control Officer will contact the on-call Duty Officer in CalEPA DTSC to obtain approval to use funds from the Emergency Reserve Account (ERA).

• In cases where radioactive material is involved, CalOES, when requested by the State Department of Health Services, will assist in coordinating state radiological monitoring of areas, personnel, and equipment in support of county authority.

• On major incidents, the CalOES will furnish such communication facilities as mutually determined by the Department of Health Services, CalOES representative, and the SAC.

c. California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)

1) Upon State highways, CalTrans may contain, remove, or authorize a private company to remove all materials spilled on the highway under authority of the Street & Highway Code, Section 91. CalTrans, in conjunction and cooperation with the CHP, will deal with any suspected/actual hazardous material situations on a state highway (freeway and/or highway route in an incorporated area), as outlined in their Unusual Incident Guide. This includes accomplishing or arranging for both identification and removal of spilled material. Final clearance of all cleanup is a function of KCEHSD.

2) When requested by CHP CalTrans will:

• Assist the CHP with traffic control and routing requirements.

• Activate and coordinate Hazardous Waste clean up contractors for all spills on State Highways.

• Assist in identification of hazardous materials by utilizing the services of private companies.

• Assist in the clean up of materials deemed as safe by KCEHSD for clean up by Roads Division Personnel in concurrence with CalTrans Coordinator.
d. **California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DF&W)**

- Assume responsibilities, where appropriate, as State Agency Coordinator for all off-road hazardous material incidents and, as such, actively support the locally designated IC in all necessary contact with state agencies.
- Respond and assume lead responsibility in determining possible impacts and mitigation measures required to protect and restore fisheries, wildlife, and habitat.
- DF&W shall be notified of any incident, which may contaminate streams or waterways. CalOES or the IC can notify them.
- DF&W will function as state agency coordinator (SAC) for off-highway hazardous materials incidents, including oil spills.
- In the event of an oil spill, DF&W will activate the State’s Oil Spill Contingency Plan.
- DF&W will supervise and approve clean up of incidents affecting the fish, game, and wildlife reserves.
- Coordinates with appropriate agencies to provide enforcement and initiation of legal action against parties responsible for spills, releases, or illicit disposal, in addition to violations of hazardous materials transportation and handling regulations (See the Fish and Game Code Section 5655 for further information relating to spills, etc.).
- Supply information to the IC to complete the required final report and the California Hazardous Material Incident Report Form.
- Support a local hazardous material incident training program.

e. **State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)**

1) The SWRCB and its nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) have broad responsibility for protection and improvement of surface and groundwater resources.

2) The Board(s) can provide:

- Expert advice on the impact of hazardous materials incidents on water resources and can arrange for water sampling, monitoring, analysis, and assessment activities.
- Statutory and regulatory authority to cause clean up; impose cease and desist or abatement orders; release available funding for appropriate activities; assess fines; and press for recovery of costs of abatement, mitigation, or contract cleanup.

3) Duties during a hazardous material incident include:
- Respond when requested and assist local authority in determining the impact of an incident on any nearby waterways and/or underground aquifers.

- Provide laboratory analysis of water samples when required to substantiate contamination.

- Assist in compiling a final incident report.

f. Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)

DIR has responsibilities for investigating accidents at industrial sites. If a worker is killed or injured in a hazardous materials incident, DIR will provide assistance and recommend protective measures for use by response personnel involved in clean up.

g. Department of Public Health (DPH)

DPH Radiological Health Branch (RHB) has primary authority over the use and disposal of radioactive materials in the State. RHB can provide technical advice and assistance to local authorities responding to a hazardous materials incident involving radioactive materials.
h. **California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)**

CalEPA is responsible for regulating the hauling and disposal of hazardous waste. CalEPA provides guidelines and will provide assistance to KCEHSD personnel when an incident could affect the public. All incidents involving radioactive materials shall also be reported to DPH.

  i. **California Department of Water Resources**

- Respond when requested and assist local authority in determining any impact and/or necessary mitigation steps involving the water project.
- Assist in compiling a final incident report and the California Hazardous Material Incident Report Form.
- Support a local hazardous material incident training program.

5. **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES**

Federal Agencies are available to assist if circumstances warrant their involvement. In most cases, the Federal Agencies would be requested by the State. Those agencies most likely to be involved would be:

a. **National Response Center (NRC)**

The NRC provides information and advice and activates the national response system.

b. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The EPA provides on-scene coordinators for major incidents.

c. **Department of Energy (DOE)**

The DOE provides assistance for dealing with radiological incidents.

d. **Department of Transportation (DOT)**

The DOT regulates the transportation of hazardous materials.

e. **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

FEMA provides disaster assistance when needed. FEMA will provide support to state and local government for disaster relief when a hazardous materials incident causes sufficient damage to merit a presidential proclamation of a major disaster.

f. **Department of Justice (DOJ)/Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

The DOJ is the designated lead agency for threats or acts of terrorism within U.S. territory. The DOJ assigns lead responsibility for operational response to the FBI. Within that role, the FBI operates as the on-scene manager for the federal government. It is FBI policy that crisis management will involve only those federal agencies requested by the FBI to provide expert guidance and/or assistance, as described in the Presidential Decision Directive (PDD)-39 Domestic Deployment Guidelines (classified) and the FBI WMD Incident Contingency Plan. FEMA is designated as the lead agency for consequence management within U.S. territory.
FEMA retains authority and responsibility to act as the lead agency for consequence management throughout the federal response.

6. **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

   a. **American Red Cross**

      - Has cooperative arrangements for planning, exchange of information and maintaining the American Red Cross and the Kern County OES liaison regarding preparedness for disaster operations.

      - Coordinates with several facilities including local schools which may be used as shelters in the event an evacuation is needed.

      - Coordinates with the Kern County OES and the CHO. Special emphasis is placed on mass care service with mutual selection, staffing and equipping of congregate care facilities. Additionally, the American Red Cross will assist the EMS and Health Care Services in the handling of mass casualties and the selection, staffing and equipping of casualty collection points.

      - Participates in community action in extending relief whenever there is suffering and want from any cause and when basic human needs are not being met.

      - Provides liaison personnel at the EOC, ICP and the other designated operational headquarters, upon activation of the emergency plan.

      - Selects pickup points and opens shelters as requested in coordination with the Kern County OES. The American Red Cross and KCDHS will provide appropriate staffing for those shelters until advised otherwise by the Kern County OES.

      - Provides information to the EOC of the status of the shelter and its occupants.

      - Provides information to the JIC to advise the public on evacuation information.

      - Can provide on-site feeding to disaster workers engaged in the abatement of the hazardous materials incident.

   b. **Emergency Medical Services**

      - Provides emergency medical transportation to medical facilities.
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2724 - NOTIFICATION AND COORDINATION

A. PROVISIONS FOR NOTIFICATION OF AND COORDINATION WITH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL

1. ACTIVATION

The IC to the degree necessary shall activate this Area Plan, whenever a hazardous materials incident occurs within Kern County. This Area Plan is concerned with hazardous materials incidents in any part of the county or cities. It covers releases to the air, land, or waters throughout the County, including rivers, reservoirs, canals, and groundwater.

Listed below are the primary categories of hazardous materials emergency response incidents:

   a. Threatened Releases

      A condition creating a substantial probability of harm, when the probability and potential extent of harm make it reasonably necessary to take immediate action to prevent, reduce, or mitigate damages to persons, property, or the environment.

   b. Transportation Incidents (active release)

      This Area Plan covers hazardous materials incidents associated with transportation by highway, railroad, pipeline, aircraft, or other means.

   c. Fixed Installations (active release)

      This Area Plan covers emergency responses to hazardous materials incidents located at industrial storage sites and/or processing sites, waste disposal sites, and the sites of illegal disposal (midnight dumping).

2. NOTIFICATION

Kern County OES, through its EOC, will be the central notification point for all major hazardous materials incidents. Kern County OES to make all other notifications to the appropriate agencies. It is assumed the general public will use 911 to report incidents.

The public agency first on scene should request any needed resources through the Kern County OES and take whatever immediate counteractions necessary to contain and reduce the spread of the material and its effects within the training limitations of the responding personnel.

If a significant number of casualties, potential casualties, or contaminated casualties are involved, the EOC will be the Emergency Dispatch Center and will notify the appropriate EMS personnel and local hospitals.

A Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Diagram is shown below. Hazardous materials incident response emergency telephone numbers are presented in Appendix E. Further information on Public Notification, Information, and Evacuation is provided in Appendix F.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT NOTIFICATION DIAGRAM

(1) CITY DISPATCH CENTERS SHALL COORDINATE WITH COUNTY AGENCIES BEFORE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE
3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Communications is a fundamental component of the County and OA emergency management organization. As with all other aspects or emergency management, communications require a well-coordinated, multi-jurisdictional, and inter-governmental response to be successful during a hazardous materials incident. Emergency communications will require viable and interoperable communication capabilities at all levels of operation – field, local, zone, and operational area.

Coordination of all communication should be the responsibility of the appropriate Emergency Dispatch center unless there is a designated communications unit leader on scene. When Emergency Dispatch is notified of a hazardous materials incident, they should immediately dispatch the appropriate law enforcement and fire agencies. Emergency Dispatch will notify other agencies as requested by the IC and in accord with this Area Plan. These may include the KCEHSD, Kern County AG, Kern County OES, Kern County Public Works, EMS, etc.

4. **COORDINATION**

a. **First Responders**

All hazardous materials incidents will be managed under the ICS, because in virtually all cases, fire, law enforcement, and KCEHSD will have statutory functional responsibility for incident mitigation. A unified command should be used in all applicable cases. Depending on incident factors, several other agencies may be requested to respond to a hazardous materials incident.

The primary means of communication during an incident or potential incident will be through the use of the primary radio frequencies licensed to public emergency response agencies in Kern County.

Alternate means of communication may include use of cellular telephone communication. These may be activated when deemed necessary by the IC. Activation of these resources may be due to the malfunctioning or overloading of primary communication methods.

b. **Law Enforcement**

The law enforcement agency having the investigative authority on the scene will become the IC will be responsible for the management of the incident. The IC will set the tactics, strategy, objectives, and the action plan for the incident. The IC will maintain contact with Emergency Dispatch.

c. **Fire Service**

Safety of all emergency response personnel and the surrounding public should be given prime consideration. Attempts at clean up should be accomplished with local resources, when possible, before calling upon outside resources. Maximum coordination and exchange of information at all times should be through the ICS.

Fire departments or fire districts that determine they need assistance should request it through the IC.

d. **Kern County Environmental Health Services Division (KCEHSD)**

KCEHSD will respond at the request of the IC and will be notified by County Emergency Dispatch. KCEHSD will provide technical assistance, resources, and evaluation to the IC. In the event of a spill involving hazardous materials, which constitute an immediate threat to
public health, Environmental Health may consult with the CHO for direction. If determined necessary, the CHO would initiate actions to proclaim a County health emergency.

e. Kern County Emergency Medical Services Division (EMS)

EMS is responsible for notifying all surrounding hospitals of an incident. Public service announcement sponsored by KCPHSD, EMS, KCEHSD, and Fire Departments, concerning exposure and medical treatment options shall be broadcasted for 10 days after a pesticide drift incident. Efforts to individually notify residents and businesses within a 1 mile radius of a pesticide exposure drift incident will also be conducted. All notifications will identify the incident location, date, pesticide(s) involved, and availability for medical cost reimbursement. See Appendix C for further information regarding medical cost reimbursement due to pesticide drift exposure.

5. MUTUAL AID

A statewide mutual aid system, operating within the framework of the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, allows for the progressive mobilization of resources to and from emergency response agencies, local governments, operational areas, regions, and the state with the intent to provide requesting agencies with adequate resources. The general flow of mutual aid resource requests and resources within mutual aid systems, as outlined in the EOP, is depicted on the following page.

The statewide mutual aid system includes several discipline-specific mutual aid systems, such as fire and rescue, law, medical, and public works. The adoption of SEMS does not alter existing mutual aid systems. These systems work through local government, operational area, regional, and state levels consistent with SEMS.

Mutual aid may also be obtained from other states. Interstate mutual aid may be obtained through direct state-to-state contacts via interstate agreements or coordination with federal agencies.

The Governor establishes mutual aid regions under the Emergency Services Act. Six (6) mutual aid regions numbered I-VI have been established within California. Kern County is within Mutual Aid Region V, and Region V is within the CalOES Inland Administrative Region.

In the County, the Fire Mutual Aid Zone System has been adopted for the emergency organization. Mutual aid is coordinated first at the zone level before being upgraded to the operational level. This ensures that limited resources within the county/operational area are adequately conserved to meet the requirements of a pending or actual event.

Kern County maintains mutual aid agreements or working documents with adjacent jurisdictions with respect to hazardous materials incidents.
A. ESTABLISH PROVISIONS FOR TRAINING RESPONSE PERSONNEL TO RESPOND TO A RELEASE OR THREATENED RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

1. OVERVIEW OF TRAINING

The assurance that emergency management policies and plans are meeting their stated objectives is gained through a program of regularly scheduled tests and exercises. Tests and exercises are activities that are used to promote an awareness of potential hazards and the need for an effective emergency management program. Testing and evaluation of emergency operations plans and procedures, training response personnel in carrying out assigned responsibilities, and demonstrating the operational capabilities of the jurisdiction are ongoing goals. Local preparedness to assure that emergency forces “do the right things at the right time” is built by a repetitive cycle of planning, training, and exercising. Training of emergency management organization (EOC, ICS, and/or other agencies) components can take many forms. They can be in the form of workshops, lectures, on-line self-testing, and at roll call. They will generally fall within one of the following types of training activity.

a. Discussion or Orientation Exercise

This is a low key, non-stressed training approach in which members of the emergency organization are “walked” through required procedures and plans. This approach is best used as an introduction to specific subject matter and to clarify roles and responsibilities.

b. Drills

Drills are a periodic activity for perfecting skills in specific operations, starting first with discussion/orientation exercises and graduating to full-scale exercises. This provides the student with a conceptual framework for clearly understanding his/her role in the emergency organization.

In developing an exercise, consideration should be given to the type of exercise, the purpose and goals, and the hazard(s) on which to base the exercise. The selection of the hazard should be based on actual or potential threats identified in the hazard analysis. The County and OA should avoid concentrating on any single hazard year after year, but should diversify to cover adequately all major hazardous materials contingencies.

One of the most important aspects of any exercise is getting the right people to participate. Major OA exercises should involve County department heads, key staff and representatives from the private sector and cities and towns, volunteer organizations, the media, hospitals, special districts, and utilities.

The active participation of organization chief executives would give the exercise the necessary importance and encourage full support of each element of the OA emergency organization. An exercise is of limited value without the participation of the right people.

c. Tabletop exercise

This is an activity in which elected or appointed officials and key staff are presented with simulated emergency situations without time constraints. It is usually informal, held in conference room environment, and is designed to elicit constructive discussion by the participants as they attempt to resolve problems based on existing emergency operations plans. The purpose is for the participants to evaluate policy, plans and procedures, and resolve coordination and responsibilities in a non-threatening format.
d. **Functional Exercise**

This activity, which is also known as a Sub-system Exercise, is designed to test and/or evaluate the capability of an individual function (e.g., communications, care and shelter) or complex activity within a function. It is applicable where the activity is capable of being effectively evaluated in isolation from other emergency functions.

e. **Full Scale Exercise**

This exercise is intended to evaluate the operational capability of emergency management systems in an interactive manner. It involves testing of a major portion of the basic elements existing within emergency operations plans and organizations. This type of exercise includes the mobilization of personnel and resources and the actual movement of emergency workers, equipment, and resources required to demonstrate coordination and response capability.

f. **Tests**

Tests measure the actual readiness capability of procedures, personnel, facilities, or equipment against the capability described in emergency operations plans. Examples include tests of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), call trees, and EOC or zone activation procedures.

2. **TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE AGENCIES.**

Hazardous materials emergency response training will be accomplished through various avenues: employee training, exercises, and incident critiques. Pursuant to standards set by the Department of Industrial Relations (Cal/OSHA) (CCR TITLE 8, Section 5192) employees who are responsible for responding to hazardous materials emergency situations that may expose them to hazardous substances must be trained (Initial and Refresher) in how to respond to expected emergencies. The intent of the Area Plan is to coordinate hazardous materials training for all response personnel. Holders of this plan should be notified by other participating agencies when they are hosting or providing training opportunities associated with hazardous materials emergency response.

KCEHSD and local fire agencies should coordinate and conduct hazardous materials response exercises in accordance with annual exercise schedules.

Agencies having assigned responsibilities under this plan must ensure their personnel are properly trained to carry out their responsibilities. All responders are to be trained to at least the minimum levels required by OSHA and certified by qualified trainers at California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), State Fire Marshal curriculum, or the equivalent.

Additionally, the three primary HMRTs consisting of KCEHSD, the Kern County Fire Department, and the Bakersfield Fire Department will participate in annual pesticide training of some type. The training will further agency compliance with SB 391 requirements.

The HMRT team provides emergency response to hazardous materials incidents in Kern County. All fire personnel employed by the HMRT Associate Member Agencies are trained by CSTI, and at a minimum, are trained at the level of First Responder Operations (FRO). Classroom training is done on a monthly basis, and joint training exercises are held quarterly. All HMRT team members will receive refresher training on an annual basis on those tasks or subjects that they have not used enough to maintain proficiency.

State law (CCR TITLE 8, Section 5192) requires staff assigned to emergency response duties associated with hazardous materials to receive minimum levels of training in several areas of hazardous materials response. Activities that are required when responding to incidents can be divided into five broad, interacting elements:
a. **Recognition**

Identification of the substance involved and the characteristics which determine its degree of hazard.

b. **Evaluation**

Impact or risk the substances pose to public health and the environment.

c. **Control**

Methods to eliminate or reduce the impact of the incident.

d. **Information**

Knowledge acquired concerning the conditions or circumstances particular to an incident.

e. **Safety**

Protection of responders from harm or risk and recognition of psychological stresses from potential exposures to unknown hazards.

To achieve minimum levels of proficiency in these five elements, there are seven levels of training that must be provided to emergency response staff potentially exposed to hazardous materials.

3. **SEVEN LEVELS OF TRAINING**

   a. **Level 1: First Responder Basic Awareness**

      1) **Target Group**

      First responders at the awareness level are individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the release. They would take no further action beyond notifying the authorities, and if possible, isolate the incident and deny entry.

      Examples of personnel recommended to receive awareness training:

      - Law Enforcement
      - Fire Agencies
      - Public Works
      - CalTrans Maintenance Crews
      - Emergency Medical Personnel
      - Public Utility and Industry personnel involved with hazardous material
      - Parks Department Personnel
2) Training Needs

Persons at the Awareness Level (Level 1) should be trained in hazard identification and proper notification procedures. First responders at the awareness level shall be employer certified in the following:

- An understanding of what hazardous materials are, and the risks associated with them in an incident.
- An understanding of the potential outcomes associated with an emergency created when hazardous substances are present.
- The ability to recognize the presence of hazardous substances in an emergency.
- The ability to identify the hazardous substances, if possible.
- An understanding of the role of the first responder awareness individual in the employer’s emergency response plan (including site security and control), and the U.S. DOT’s Emergency Response Guidebook.
- The ability to realize the need for additional resources and to make appropriate notifications to the communications center.

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, within six months of employment.
- Annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies, or should be able to demonstrate competency in those areas at least yearly.
- Minimum length of time required to cover Awareness Level (Level 1) topics in one course: 4-16 hours, depending on the agency need and responsibility (e.g., law enforcement 4-8 hours).

b. Level 2: First Responder Operations

1) Target Group

First responders at the operations level respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release. They are trained to respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposures.

Examples of other personnel recommended receiving operations level training:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Fighters
2) Training Needs

- Operations Level (Level 2) personnel should have all the training of Level 1, plus further employer certified training.

- Knowledge of the basic hazard and risk assessment techniques.

- Know how to select and use proper PPE provided to the first responder operational level.

- An understanding of basic hazardous materials terms.

- Know how to perform basic control, containment, and/or confinement operations and rescue injured or contaminated persons within the capabilities of the resources and PPE available with their unit.

- Know how to implement basic equipment, victim, and rescue personnel decontamination procedures.

- An understanding of the relevant standard operating procedures and termination procedures.

(3) Training Frequency

- Initially, at least eight hours of training in addition to Awareness or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the areas above.

- Annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies, or should be able to demonstrate competency in those areas at least yearly.

- Required course time (assuming Level 1 taken) 8-24 hours, depending on agency needs and responsibility.

c. Level 3: First Responder Operational-Decon

1) Target Group

These emergency response individuals will provide decontamination support in the Contamination-Reduction (Warm) Zone.

2) Training Needs

First Responder Operational-Decon personnel shall be employer certified in the following:
• Understand and know how to implement equipment, victim, and rescue personnel decontamination procedures.

• Identify various types of decontamination and their appropriate application.

• Establish a decon corridor and describe the necessary equipment and personnel functions needed to perform various decontamination operations.

• Describe the Decontamination Leader Position Description and duties under the ICS.

• Identify the types, selection criteria, and limitations of personal protective clothing and respiratory protection associated with decontamination.

• Describe the purpose and need for medical monitoring and the signs and symptoms of heat related illnesses.

3) Training Frequency

• Initially, First Responder Operational-Decon personnel shall have received eight (8) hours of training equal to the CSTI or State Fire Marshall First Responder Operational-Decon training program.

• Annual refresher training shall be completed.

d. Level 4: Specialist Employees

1) Target Group

These individuals may be employees of public agencies or business representatives.

These specialty employees will respond at the request of the IC. These persons will function at the specialist employee level (CCR Title 8, Section 5192 q (5)). They will provide technical advice and/or assistance to the IC. Technical assistance may include sampling, identification of chemicals, limited treatment of hazardous wastes, mitigation of releases, which may include plugging, patching, or other methods to stop a release and evaluation of health and environmental risks. Specialist Employees may or may not be assigned to an ICS positions, and may or may not function within the Exclusion (Hot) or Contamination-Reduction Zone (Warm) Zones.

2) Training Needs

Employers will determine training needs according to the employees’ regular job duties.

3) Training Frequency

Specialist employees shall receive training or demonstrate competency in the area of their specialty annually.

e. Level 5: Hazardous Materials Technicians

1) Target Group
Hazardous Materials Technicians are individuals who respond to potential releases for the purpose of stopping the release. They assume a more aggressive role than a first responder at the operations level in that they will approach the point of release in order to plug, patch, or otherwise stop the release of a hazardous substance.

2) Training Needs

Their employer shall certify Hazardous Materials Technicians in the following:

- Know how to implement the employer’s emergency plan.
- Know the classification, identification, and verification of known and unknown hazardous materials by using field survey instruments and equipment.
- Be able to function within an assigned role in the ICS.
- Know how to select and use proper specialized chemical PPE provided to the Hazardous Materials Technician.
- Understand hazard and risk assessment techniques.
- Be able to perform advanced control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capability of the resources and PPE available within the unit.
- Understand and implement decontamination procedures.
- Understand termination procedures.
- Understand basic chemical and toxicological terminology and behavior.

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, Hazardous Materials Technicians shall have received at least one hundred and sixty (160) hours of training equal to the CSTI or State Fire Marshall Hazardous Materials Technician training program.
- Annual refresher training shall be completed.
- Annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain competencies, or should be able to demonstrate competency in those areas at least annually according to Title 8 Section 5192 (q)(8)(A).

f. Level 6: Hazardous Materials Specialist

1) Target Group

Hazardous Materials Specialists are individuals who respond with and provide support to Hazardous Materials Technicians. Their duties parallel those of the Hazardous Materials Technicians; however, those duties require a more directed or specific knowledge of the various substances they may be called to contain. The Hazardous
Materials Specialist would also act as liaison with federal, state, local, and other governmental authorities with regard to site activities.

2) Training Needs

- Hazardous Materials Specialists shall be certified by their employer.

- Know how to implement the local emergency incident response plan.

- Understand classification, identification, and verification of known and unknown materials by using advanced survey instruments and equipment.

- Know the Kern County Area Plan for Hazardous Materials Emergency Response.

- Be able to select and use proper specialized chemical PPE provided to the Hazardous Materials Specialist.

- Understand in-depth hazard and risk assessment techniques.

- Be able to perform specialized control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and PPE available.

- Be able to determine and implement decontamination procedures.

- Have the ability to develop a site safety plan.

- Understand chemical, radiological, and toxicological terminology and behavior.

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, Hazardous Materials Specialists shall have received an additional eighty (80) hours of training equal to the CSTI or State Fire Marshall Hazardous Materials Specialist training program.

- Annual refresher training shall be completed.

- Annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain competencies, or should be able to demonstrate competency in those areas at least annually according to Title 8 Section 5192 (q)(8)(A).

g. Level 7: Incident Commander (IC)

1) Target Group

Agency employee(s) who will assume control of the incident scene beyond the first responder awareness level (e.g., Operations Chief, IC, etc.).

2) Training Needs

Persons trained at Level 7 should be trained in Levels 1, 2 and have further employer certified competency in:
• Planning, development, and implementation of response plans
  ○ Based on knowledge from pre-incident surveys of business sites, sensitive environments, etc.
  ○ Staff preparation/training.
  ○ Measures to increase public awareness relating to hazardous materials safety.

• Assessment/Recognition
  ○ Investigation/documentation of incidents.
  ○ Identification of source, type of material, and its degree of hazard.
  ○ Assessing cost of containment.
  ○ Understanding the importance of liability and substantiation of cost recovery claims.
  ○ Personnel protection required.

• Notification/Response Coordination
  ○ Know and be able to implement the ICS.
  ○ Knowledge of the state emergency response plan and of the Federal Regional Response Team.
  ○ Knowledge of proper notification protocols - follow up measures to ensure proper agency notifications.
  ○ Know how to implement the local emergency response plan.

• Containment and Control
  ○ Isolation/containment practices, procedures, policies.
  ○ Evacuation procedures, policies, contingency plans.
  ○ Know and understand the importance of decontamination procedures.
  ○ Overview of funding mechanisms/cost accounting methods for control/containment.

• Safety (Protection of responders from harm or risk)
  ○ Hazards and risks associated with employees working in chemical protective clothing.
  ○ Standardized safety procedures.
- Medical surveillance and health monitoring.
- Regulation - knowledge of pertinent local, state, and federal regulations (example: waste labeling)
- Media relations/public information

3) Training Frequency

- Initially, at least 24 hours of training, in addition to the Operations level course work.
- Annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain competencies, or should be able to demonstrate competency in those areas at least annually
- Time required for Level 4 basic orientation course (assuming Levels 1 and 2 have already been completed) is 24 to 40 hours of IC training.

B. TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

State law (CCR TITLE 8, Section 5192, SEMS) requires documentation for hazardous materials response training. Each agency will be responsible for maintaining the documentation on employee hazardous materials training. Each agency's training officer is responsible for the maintenance and completeness of these training files. A training log should be maintained listing each employee's annual refresher due date.

The HMRT team's Training Subcommittee maintains all training records for all HMRT team members with the following:

- Each HMRT team member record will include the subjects each member has completed and any evaluations or tests taken. Summaries of actual emergency response activities will be inserted to help with evaluation of training needs.

- Training records will be reviewed at least twice a year in order to determine the needs of the HMRT team members for refresher training.
A. PROCEDURES FOR SITE SAFETY DURING A RELEASE OR THREATENED RELEASE

1. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement includes CHP, the County Sheriff’s Department, the District Attorney’s office and local police departments. The authority for the management of the scene of an on-highway spill or disaster is vested in the appropriate law enforcement agency having primary traffic investigative authority on the highway where the spill occurs. When additional site security personnel are needed, the cooperation of industry may be requested in providing site security assistance to the responsible law enforcement agency.

The local law enforcement agency assumes the role of IC unless control is relinquished pursuant to CVC 2454b. The IC has the duties of establishing the ICP, traffic control, and providing security to the scene and surrounding area. On-site perimeter security should be accomplished by utilization of the “Two Ring” security concept as shown on the following page. When appropriate the IC will be responsible for instructing the JIC to issue the evacuation notification and the reentry notification. The IC is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the various agencies, which may be involved in the incident. The IC will maintain contact with the designated EOC.

All information of significant public consequence will be cleared with the IC by the JIC before it is released to the media. Its point of release will either be on scene or the Kern County OES/Fire Department’s EOC located at 2601 Panorama Drive, Building B, Bakersfield, California. The IC will clear information for release after he/she has been satisfied that the overall incident mitigation effort will be enhanced by the release.

Reentry into the incident scene by non-emergency response personnel shall not be permitted until the emergency has been deemed to be over by the agency with incident command responsibility. In cases where hazardous conditions remain (e.g. cleanup of a hazmat is pending), responsibility for safety of reentering non-emergency response personnel shall be turned over by the IC to an appropriate person who shall have a thorough understanding of the specific conditions and needed precautions. In situations where uncontrolled reentry would result in unreasonable additional hazards and/or confusion, the entity charged with site security will maintain control and gradually increase access on a priority basis until complete reentry has been achieved.
PERIMETER SECURITY

WIND

SHOULD BE LABELED OR MARKED WITH TAPE OR BARRICADE TO DETER ENTRANCE

CONTAMINATION REDUCTION ZONE

TAPE - "HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - DO NOT ENTER"

EXCLUSION ZONE

SPILL

DECON AREA

CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT LEFT IN THIS AREA

STAGING AREA

(OUTSIDE CONTAMINATION REDUCTION ZONE WITH EASY ACCESS)

SAFETY OFFICER
B. PROVISION FOR INFORMING BUSINESS PERSONNEL AND THE AFFECTED PUBLIC OF SAFETY PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW DURING A RELEASE OR THREATENED RELEASE

1. GENERAL

Informing business personnel and the affected public of safety precautions, and/or evacuation procedures to follow during a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, shall be the responsibility of the Kern County Sheriff's Department for unincorporated areas and local police departments within the incorporated cities. At the request of the IC, assistance shall be provided from other appropriate local response agencies. The following procedures should be followed to ensure that adequate and accurate information is disseminated to the general public in a timely manner:

- Unless otherwise stated, the central point for the release of information to the public concerning safety procedures and/or evacuation warnings during a hazardous materials incident will be the IC or his/her designated representative at a location well away from the incident.

- The IC or his/her designated representative shall access Language Line translation service to assist in communicating with affected individuals in their native language, should there be no other emergency responder on scene who can do so in person.

- The need for foreign language interpretation services shall be accessed through the county's emergency communication center (ECC). The requesting agency shall advise ECC the language needs and wait until the proper service and be contacted. Actual interpretation shall be conducted via land line if possible. Additionally KCEHSD and the Kern County Fire Department shall maintain a list of personnel available to respond to assist with interpretation in the three most common languages spoken in the county.

- Where it appears that evacuation of the public from a hazardous materials incident is imminent, the following should be considered as a minimum:
  - Persons being asked to evacuate should be told where to go and how to get there.
  - The public should be told what Emergency Alerting System (EAS) station to listen to.
  - KCDHS will be responsible for assisting its partners, the Kern County Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) and the Salvation Army (SA), to plan for, establish, staff and manage shelter and necessary conveniences.
  - A public address system will be used to inform the public and businesses where to evacuate or instructed where to shelter in place.

2. RECEPTION CENTERS

The Director of the KCDHS is responsible to ensure that the County has formally designated the American Red Cross (ARC) as the local agency responsible to manage disaster shelters and to make arrangements with other private, nonprofit organizations, such as the Salvation Army (SA) to support shelter operations.

As the Care & Shelter Branch Coordinator at the time of a disaster, the Director is also responsible to:

- Activate the Care & Shelter Branch of the County's EOC
• Ensure that appropriate notifications are made (e.g., pre-assigned Branch personnel, Shelter Managers and support staffs, shelter site owners/managers, etc.);

• Determine the requirements for shelter operations, including location(s) and estimated number of displaced;

• Assess pre-selected shelter sites to identify any facilities that may be inaccessible, damaged, destroyed or unavailable for other reasons; and

• Obtain and distribute the supplies, equipment, food stuffs, etc., needed to support shelter operations.

In large disasters, all suitable buildings, other than those being used for other emergency functions, may be used for sheltering. California State Education Code Section 40041.5 mandates that public education facilities be made available for use as shelters during emergencies. Schools are the most preferred shelter facilities since they are public facilities and can accommodate a large number of people. Churches are also appropriate, as they are usually large and often have feeding facilities on the premises. Arrangements should be made in advance with owners or managers of many facilities for use in large disasters and after small disasters that require a number of different sites. Arrangements should also be made during a disaster, if possible, for backup shelter sites in case the threat changes location (for example, a wind shift after a hazardous material incident). In large disasters, commercial lodging facilities such as motels and hotels should be reserved for the infirm that require above average comfort and conveniences.

3. RESPONDING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

Each agency shall perform those tasks charged to that agency related to the emergency operation and shall confer with the IC for coordination of those tasks. The role definitions in this Area Plan describe the areas of responsibility for each agency or department.

Only the IC shall authorize requests for assistance from private agencies.

KCEHSD is a repository for all hazardous materials incident reports for statistical purposes and historical data. KCEHSD shall contact CalOES to provide response information for State statistical purposes. If KCEHSD was not requested, the IC will be responsible for contacting the State, CalEPA, and DTSC.

C. DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO PUBLIC AND THE EAS

1. INFORMATION/MEDIA RELATIONS

Providing factual and timely information to the media is an extremely important function. To provide inaccurate information or appear disinterested in assisting media representatives at the scene of a hazardous materials incident would be counterproductive.

Therefore, it will be necessary to identify a SAFE area for the media to be properly briefed and escorted if necessary to ensure they receive accurate data without jeopardizing the effectiveness of the emergency operations.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPERATING CONCERNS

The IC may designate a Joint Information Center (JIC) that will become the only source of information to be released to the news media. This person would be responsible for:
• Issuing the EAS announcement (when activated by the Kern County OES Coordinator).

• Maintaining a current status of all activities involving the hazardous materials incident.

• Ensuring that all releases to the media and public are coordinated among all participating agencies.

For hazardous materials incidents, the JIC should follow the Public Information Release Guidelines for hazardous materials incidents. Public information release actions will initially be taken by the on-scene JIC assigned by the IC. (Additional public information staff may be requested from the jurisdiction). The public information staff at the EOC may be mobilized depending on the extent of the incident. A JIC may also be established at the EOC that will ensure all press releases are consistent, coordinated, validated, and have the approval of the IC. The media should be briefed periodically throughout the year on hazardous materials incident response and related procedures. All releases must be cleared through the IC and technical advisor at the scene or Emergency Manager at the EOC.

3. NEWS MEDIA INGRESS TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT SCENES

The California Penal Code, Section 409.5(d) permits members of the news media to enter hazardous substance spill incidents.

Once properly identified with a valid press card, the news media shall be advised that entering the scene may be hazardous to their health and safety, and they should exercise due caution before entering.

The press shall be immediately advised of the danger and a recommendation made that all personnel remain at a safe distance. Equipment and/or personnel subjected to possible contamination, resulting from encroachment upon contaminated area or other events, will be considered to be contaminated and decontamination measures taken.

D. PROVISIONS FOR INFORMING MEDICAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES OF THE NATURE OF THE INCIDENT AND THE SUBSTANCE(S) INVOLVED

The IC will be responsible for notifying the medical facility of any exposure or possible exposure to hazardous substance(s). The IC should provide the medical facility with as much information prior to victim(s) arrival at the medical facility.

Each medical facility within the OA should be responsible on a 24-hour basis for:

• Coordinating the means of transportation of casualties and medical resources to health care facilities.

• Coordinating the relocation of patients from damaged or untenable health care facilities.

• Communicating with regional poison control centers to obtain toxicological or any other pertinent information they may provide or have access to.

Emergency Medical Services is responsible on a 24 hour basis for:

• Coordinating disaster medical care operations within the County.

• Coordinating the procurement and allocation of critical public and private medical and other resources required to support disaster medical care operations in the affected area.
• Maintaining liaison with the appropriate American Red Cross Chapter and volunteer services agencies within the jurisdiction.

• Maintaining liaison with the IC or designated contact for other relevant emergency services such as: communications, fire and rescue, health, law enforcement and traffic control, transportation, welfare, etc.

• Requests for additional medical transportation resources, if local resources are insufficient, will be made through the EMS Agency.

• Communicating with other EMS Agencies on matters requiring assistance from their jurisdictions, state or federal governments.

E. PROVISION FOR EVACUATION PLANS

1. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Several types of hazards may require the temporary relocation of people from threatened areas. There are four types of evacuation:

• Limited - A small group of people from a small area.

• Mass - Entire city, suburb, or region from a large area.

• Spontaneous - Orders not necessary, danger obvious.

• Forced - Governmental authority invoked (409.5 CA. Pen. Code, et seq.) to move people from threatened areas.

Under ideal circumstances there will be enough time for radio and television stations to broadcast the required evacuation information via the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Public address system may also be utilized when the scale, and time or circumstances of the incident does not allow for personal or other forms of contact. Also, if sufficient time is available, copies of the evacuation notice can be locally produced and distributed. Regardless of the means, the evacuation warning should include minimum information such as:

• Type of Evacuation (voluntary or mandatory)

• Best available route(s) out of the area

• Location of evacuation center(s)/shelter(s)

• Anticipated duration of the emergency

• Time remaining before the situation becomes critical

Specific evacuation requirements will vary with each situation, but they should be carried out in a manner consistent with other critical functions.
The decision to evacuate due to a hazardous materials incident is determined by the IC, based upon the following factors:

- Type of hazardous material involved
- Condition of the material
- Duration and amount of release
- Condition of containment devices
- Wind speed, direction, and potential changes
- Weather conditions: temperature, relative humidity, and barometric pressure

An evacuation should be implemented, if sufficient time exists to complete the evacuation before the hazard reaches any part of the evacuation area, and if the evacuation would cause a lesser risk to public health and safety than sheltering-in-place. Fire agencies and KCEHSD have the ability to determine evacuation distances. Fire agencies may use the evacuation distances referenced in the DOT’s Emergency Response Guidebook. The Emergency Response Guidebook can serve as a guide to first responders (law enforcement, fire, health, transportation) for initial action to be taken at a hazardous materials incident, including basic emergency actions and evacuation distances for various materials.

2. **EVACUATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

   a. **Incident Commander (IC)**
      - Takes appropriate actions to see that information on the evacuation is disseminated to all individuals within the area to be evacuated. Law enforcement personnel will not be utilized for evacuation in areas where protective clothing is required.
      - Identifies area to be evacuated and specifies lines of the perimeter, the locations of emergency shelters, and transportation availability if needed.
      - Coordinates to initiate the evacuation.
      - Ensures that evacuation information is continuously disseminated to the EOC and other agencies.
      - Verifies whether the evacuation is emergency or precautionary.
      - Takes measures to prevent and control against looting in the evacuation area.

   b. **Kern County Sheriff’s Department**
      - Has primary responsibility to execute, coordinate, and control the evacuation in unincorporated areas.

   c. **City Police Departments**
      - Has primary responsibility to execute, coordinate, and control the evacuation in incorporated areas within their jurisdictions.
d. Kern County Office of Emergency Services (Kern County OES)/ Kern County Fire Department

- Notifies appropriate individuals on the Disaster Alert Roster.
- Notifies CalOES of the situation and provides appropriate updates.
- Provides continuous monitoring of the situation to ensure that activities are proceeding as directed and that agencies involved in the support operation are informed of the status of the evacuation.
- Coordinates with DTSC to recover costs associated with the clean up of hazardous materials releases.
- Maintaining liaison with the IC or designated contact for emergency services such as communications, fire, and rescue.

e. City Fire Departments

- Assists appropriate law enforcement agency in coordination of evacuation.

f. American Red Cross

- Opens shelters as requested and provides staffing (with KCDHS). Opening shelters shall be directed by the Kern County OES when feasible.
- Provides comprehensive evaluation of emergency evacuation needs.
- Provides information to the EOC on the status of the shelter and its occupants.
- Coordinates with the EOC and the JIC the dissemination of information to the public.

g. Kern County Public Health Department

- Assists with the coordination of evacuation.

h. California Highway Patrol

- Coordinate and control evacuations resulting from hazardous materials incidents on state transportation routes.

i. School Districts

- Coordinates with American Red Cross on the availability of schools to be used as shelters.
- Coordinates with the EOC on public information.

j. Department(s) of Public Works (or equivalent)

- Assists with the coordination of evacuation through knowledge of public transportation routes.
k. CalTrans

- Assists with the coordination of evacuation through knowledge of state transportation routes.
- Provides signs, barricades, and other traffic control where necessary.

3. SHELTER LOCATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

Evacuation procedures will be coordinated between the IC or a designated representative and the Kern County OES. Together, these representatives will select the most appropriate area for establishing a shelter. KCDHS will coordinate with the American Red Cross and the appropriate school districts to select the best location within the area that has been identified for sheltering. Upon determination of the shelter location, KCDHS will coordinate with the IC to establish evacuee pick-up points.

Sheltering information including evacuation centers and evacuee pick-up points will be disseminated to the following:

- Incident Site
- Evacuation Section
- News Media via the JIC
- Other agencies as appropriate

4. POST-EVACUATION

Once an evacuation area is deemed safe for reentry, the IC will facilitate the removal of barricades or collapse of the evacuation perimeter. The IC will coordinate the reentry with the EOC, and the EOC will contact emergency shelters to develop plans for returning the evacuees to the area. The JIC will be responsible for disseminating post-evacuation information to the media.

Depending on the incident, CHO should provide post information to evacuees regarding their evacuated areas. This may include information on:

- Cleaning procedures for clothing, cooking utensils, and furniture
- Handling of food substances
- Care of pets
- Care of plants
- Lingering or long-term health effects

After the incident conclusion, the Kern County OES will assemble information from the Red Cross, and other agencies participating in the evacuation for the consolidation of appropriate formal records.

5. SHELTERING IN PLACE

Sheltering-in-place is a viable alternative to evacuation for incidents involving a short-term, unexpected toxic airborne threat or release when there is little or no time for notification and evacuation.
in-place requires that people stay indoors and make their homes and buildings airtight. This can be done by closing doors, windows and vents and by closing air conditioning and heating systems until the toxic cloud passes. Once the toxic cloud has passed, the concentration of toxic material indoors may be higher than outdoors, due to infiltration. It may then be necessary for the occupants to move outdoors.

a. Decision to Shelter in Place

The decision to shelter-in-place is the IC’s responsibility and should be based on the following:

- Type and concentration of material released
- Estimated duration of the release
- Location of the release
- Toxicological effects
- Atmospheric conditions, including wind direction, wind speed, stability, weather, temperature, and dispersion patterns
- Time of Day
- Number of people at risk
- Type of population (ambulatory, non-ambulatory)
- Location of population
- Emergency response and response time
- Time necessary to conduct evacuation
- Adequacy of the shelters

b. Instructions for Public

The effectiveness of sheltering-in-place is dependent on initial public information and periodic informational updates. The public should be instructed to do the following:

- Close all internal and external doors and close and lock all windows.
- Stop drafts using wet towels in gaps under doors and duct tape around sides/cracks on doors and windows.
- Turn off outside ventilation and close vents to the outside.
- Turn off all sources of ignition, if it is safe to do so.
- Turn home air-conditioners and switch inlets to closed position. Seal gaps around air-conditioners windows units with tape, plastic sheeting, paper, or aluminum wrap.
- Turn off and cover exhaust fans in kitchens, bathrooms, dryer vents, and other spaces.

- Turn off clothes dryer.

- Close fireplace dampers.

- Hold a wet cloth or handkerchief over nose and mouth.

- For a higher degree of protection, stay in the bathroom, close the door, and turn on the cold water in the shower using a strong spray to "wash" the air.

- If an explosion is possible outdoors, close drapes, curtains, and shades over windows. Stay away from windows to prevent potential injury from flying glass.

- Minimize the use of elevators in buildings. Elevators tend to "pump" outdoor air through a building as they travel up and down.

- Once the toxic cloud passes and all steps have been taken to ensure that the incident will not recur, the ventilation must be increased by opening windows and doors, turning on ventilation systems and moving occupants outdoors.

- Other specifics related to the incident.

Further information on Public Notification, Information, and Evacuation is provided in Appendix F.
A. LISTING AND DESCRIPTION OF AVAILABLE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED FOR POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES IN THE JURISDICTION, AND REFLECTING RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

1. GENERAL

This section contains specific information on equipment and supplies maintained by Kern County Fire Department and KCEHSD, as they are most likely to respond operationally to Level II, III, and IV hazardous materials incidents. The HMRT team has the ability to respond to hazardous materials incidents at various levels and has designated staff to test, maintain, and decontaminate equipment on a regular basis. For further information regarding equipment and supplies in responding to hazardous materials incidents, please refer to the Kern County Fire Department’s Hazardous Materials Incident Procedures Manual (Appendix B).

2. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

a. Protective Clothing and Respiratory Protection Equipment

KCEHSD and the Kern County Fire Department maintain chemical protective clothing and respiratory protection equipment that will allow their respective hazardous materials response teams to operate in conditions ranging from level D up to and including level A. Fire department personnel are also supplied with traditional turnout or bunker gear.

b. Monitoring Equipment

KCEHSD and the Kern County Fire Department maintain and utilize a cache of various types of monitoring devices and equipment designed to detect and alert emergency responders to a multitude of flammable, corrosive, explosive, and reactive hazards, including chemical, radiological, and biological agents. Monitoring and detection devices and equipment are updated and upgraded as mission and statutory requirements change.

c. Maintenance

Non-consumable personal protective clothing, respiratory protective equipment, and monitoring equipment receive scheduled preventive maintenance in accordance with the manufactures recommendations. In addition to the requisite scheduled maintenance, monitoring, and respiratory equipment is function checked at the beginning of each shift, and again prior to actual use.

d. HMRT Team

The HMRT team maintains a support vehicle. This vehicle will respond to incidents in accordance with the HMRT policies and procedures.

Testing, maintenance, and decontamination of equipment are completed as follows:

* Monitoring equipment is operated, tested, charged and field calibrated according to manufacturer’s instructions/recommendations by HMRT team members. Monitoring equipment will have a true calibration as recommended by the manufacturer. Documentation of equipment maintenance and calibration shall be maintained by HMRT team.
- Communication equipment (cellular phones, portable radios) is operated, tested and charged on a weekly basis by team members. Maintenance is performed by a local radio repair and maintenance company, as needed.

- Protective clothing used by HMRT team is both reusable and disposable, depending upon the use and style of product.

e. Reference Materials

KCEHSD and Kern County Fire Department each maintain a technical information resource listing in their respective hazardous materials response vehicles. This resource includes print and electronic media information references. Technical references are updated on a regular basis in order to provide accurate, up-to-date, and statutorily accurate information.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENTS/DISTRICTS

Fire protection agencies will be responsible for maintaining and testing self contained breathing apparatus, and other fire fighting equipment. This equipment will be tested and maintained according to manufacturer's specifications.
CCR TITLE 19 SECTION 2728 - CRITIQUE AND FOLLOW UP

A. DEBRIEFSING

After each Level I, Level II, Level III, or Level IV HAZMAT response, the Fire and Environmental Health personnel gather all digital videos, still photos, chronological logs, etc. from available sources (dispatch center, news media, etc.) and jointly critique the overall response. Information from the critique will be compared against procedures outlined within this Area Plan and current departmental operating procedures for validity and corrected wherever deficiencies are found to exist. Videotapes and news articles will be maintained by the County Fire Department for future educational reference.

Interagency incident critiques when applicable will be held to provide a means to determine the efficiency of the response efforts and provide methods of improving safety and incident operations. The critique is held to determine:

- What went wrong?
- What went right?
- What was learned?
- Can we improve our operations in the future?
- Should the plan be changed?
- What costs were incurred?

To perform the evaluation of the HAZMAT response, all reports on the incident will be reviewed. The critique should not be used to point accusing fingers and to lay blame on any one person or agency.

B. FOLLOW-UP

Based on the outcome of the critique, it should be determined what items need to be checked on and who should conduct the follow-up with respect to the following:

- Recovery of agency costs
- Enforcement actions if necessary
- Corrections in plans and procedures
- Agency responsibilities
- Equipment Inventory
SB-391 PESTICIDE DRIFT INCIDENT PROTOCOLS

The following pesticide protocols augment the policies and procedures, already in place, for responding to any chemical release emergency within the county. These protocols apply primarily to the non-occupational population that maybe affected by an off-site release of a pesticide which has migrated away from the target area.

- At the beginning of each year the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner’s office will provide to each first responder agency a list of the twenty five most commonly used restricted pesticides in the county. Each of the following agencies, Kern County Fire Department, KCEHSD, and City of Bakersfield Fire Department will corroborate and provide to EMS the pesticide trade name or synonyms responsible for causing a non-occupational pesticide drift exposure incident. Each agency will have equal responsibility in providing at the earliest point possible the identity of the pesticide causing the drift incident if immediately known. The Kern County Agricultural Commissioner’s office will be immediately contacted through the county’s emergency dispatch center of any pesticide incident.

- The notification procedures for notification and coordination of evacuation of affected non-occupational personnel shall be followed as cited in Appendix F of this 2014 Area Plan and the Kern County Emergency Plan.

- The IC shall in consultation with responding agencies determine the need for on-site or nearby emergency shelter. Shelter shall only be provided after decontamination of exposed individuals has been completed or determined that it is unnecessary by the incident commander. Responsibility for providing temporary shelter shall be the EOC. Temporary shelter accommodations at proposed centers will be utilized when appropriate. Long term evacuation and sheltering protocols shall be implemented as detailed in Appendix F of this 2014 Area Plan and the Kern County Emergency Plan.

- The need for foreign language interpretation services shall be accessed through the county’s emergency communication center (ECC). The requesting agency shall advise ECC by telephone, the language needs and wait until the proper service can be contacted. Actual interpretation shall be conducted via land line if possible. Additionally, KCEHSD and the Kern County Fire Department shall maintain a list of personnel available to respond to assist with interpretation in the three most common languages spoken in the county.

- The Kern County EMS is responsible for notifying all surrounding hospitals of an incident. Public service announcements sponsored by the KCPHD, EMS, KCEHSD, and Fire Departments, shall develop in consultation with the Local Health Officer, to ensure access to health care within 24 hours of an exposure resulting from a pesticide drift emergency and up to a week after the incident. Coordinated efforts with the various agencies will identify the incident, location, date, pesticide(s) involved, and information regarding the availability for medical cost reimbursement.

- All local medical treatment facilities will be notified through established EMS and Health Department networks of the availability for reimbursement of medical treatment costs.

- California Department of Pesticide Regulation Monitoring and Inspection Forms and the Reimbursing Medical Costs of Persons Injured in Pesticide Incidents Brochure can be found in Appendix C.