
Overview

This unit is about you working as a team member to respond to emergencies involving hazardous material (i.e. any materials that potentially present a hazard to health or the environment), involving single or multiple crews. You will be required to use appropriate personal protective equipment and operate other appropriate equipment to:

- 1 minimise damage to the environment from hazardous materials and
- 2 decontaminate people and property

Limiting damage to the environment from hazardous materials

This covers your ability to work as a team member to respond to hazardous material incidents.

Decontaminating people and property

This covers your ability to work as a team member to decontaminate people and property involved in hazardous material incidents. **Examples** could include:

- 1 people: casualty(ies), fire and rescue and other agencies' staff
- 2 property: structures, transport, ground space and fire and rescue and other agencies' equipment

Supporting people involved in an operational incident

This covers your ability to provide both physical and emotional support to people directly and indirectly involved in a hazardous materials incident. This will include:

- 1 reassuring and comforting people
- 2 protecting their privacy and dignity
- 3 maintaining security at the scene of an incident and
- 4 liaising with other agencies

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Performance criteria

Minimising damage to the environment from hazardous materials

- You must be able to:*
- P1 Confirm what you have to do with the relevant people and keep them updated
 - P2 Make best use of your equipment, safely and within its limitations, to minimise effects of hazardous materials and deal with known and likely risks
 - P3 Report on the type, location, quantity and physical properties of the hazardous materials to the relevant people as soon as possible
 - P4 Avoid unnecessary harm to people, property and the environment

Decontaminating people and property

- You must be able to:*
- P5 Confirm what you have to do with the relevant people and keep them updated
 - P6 Help to set up a decontamination area for people and property
 - P7 Help to apply chosen decontamination methods for people and property
 - P8 Make best use of your equipment, safely and within its limitations, to carry out decontamination
 - P9 Help with the disposal and decontamination of contaminated items and materials

Supporting people involved in an operational incident

- You must be able to:*
- P10 Support people in a controlled, considerate and compassionate way
 - P11 Restrict other people's view of the incident where necessary
 - P12 Report anything which may adversely affect people's safety to the relevant person

In general

- You must be able to:*
- P13 Operate safely within your agreed level of responsibility
 - P14 Use and adhere to ongoing risk assessment to minimise risk to yourself and others
 - P15 Preserve evidence to meet the needs of an investigation
 - P16 Safeguard other people's possessions and property and inform the relevant people
 - P17 Return equipment and materials to the correct place, make sure they are secure and report any faults or low levels of supplies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Health and Safety

- K1 Hazards and risks of the workplace affecting people and the environment in relation to hazardous materials and decontamination
- K2 How to make and apply decisions based on the assessment of risk in the case of hazardous materials and decontamination
- K3 How to apply practices that maximise the health, safety and welfare of yourself and others when dealing with hazardous materials and decontamination

You need to know and understand:

Organisational

- K4 Fire Service or other legislation relevant to dealing with hazardous materials and decontamination
- K5 Record systems specific to your role and their use
- K6 Sources and availability of information relating to dealing with hazardous materials and decontamination

You need to know and understand:

Personal and Interpersonal

- K7 How to communicate clearly and effectively with the range of people when dealing with hazardous materials and decontamination responses
- K8 How to treat colleagues and members of the public with respect and consideration, taking account of and accepting diversity
- K9 How to recognise and support distressed people
- K10 Lines and methods of communication/reporting when dealing with hazardous materials and decontamination responses
- K11 Roles, responsibilities and limits of authority of yourself, others and other agencies involved in dealing with hazardous materials and decontamination responses

You need to know and understand:

Technical

- K12 Capabilities and limitations of personal protective and operational equipment used to deal with hazardous materials and decontamination
- K13 How to select and use personal protective and operational equipment when dealing with hazardous materials and decontamination
- K14 Roles and responsibilities within the incident command system
- K15 The types of evidence and its importance
- K16 How to identify and preserve evidence
- K17 The importance of limiting damage to property and the environment involved in the release of hazardous materials
- K18 How to limit damage to property and the environment
- K19 Methods of control and containment of hazardous materials
- K20 Decontamination methods and types of decontamination agents

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Protect the environment from the effects of hazardous materials

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Relevant occupations	Fire-Fighters
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Suite	Operations in the Community
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