

## SFJFRSFF5 SQA Unit Code (H9FD 04)

### Protect life and the environment from the effects of hazardous materials



#### Overview

This standard is recommended for firefighters.

This standard is about working as a team member to **limit damage to the environment from hazardous materials** (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.

This standard includes your ability to work as a team member to **decontaminate people and property** involved in hazardous material incidents, such as casualties, fire and rescue staff or other agencies' staff. Property you decontaminate will range from structures, transport and ground space, to fire and rescue equipment and other agencies' equipment.

You will be expected to **provide support to others** directly and indirectly involved in an operational incident. Operational or physical support will include your ability to liaise with other agencies or maintain security at the scene of an incident. Emotional support you provide to others might require you to reassure and comfort people whilst protecting their privacy and dignity.

#### Performance criteria

#### Minimise damage to the environment from hazardous materials

- You must be able to:
- P1 agree with relevant others your tasks and duties at an incident in line with your role and responsibilities
  - P2 select equipment which can be safely used to minimise effects of hazardous materials in line with your organisation's guidelines
  - P3 operate equipment in line with its limitations, safety and operating instructions
  - P4 identify risks affecting your tasks and duties in line with your organisation's risk assessment procedures
  - P5 use appropriate control measures to mitigate risk in line with your organisation's procedures
  - P6 provide reports on hazardous materials to relevant others in line with your organisation's procedures, including:
    - P6.1 the type
    - P6.2 location
    - P6.3 quantity
    - P6.4 physical properties
  - P7 use agreed methods and techniques to minimise the impact of risk from hazardous materials in line with your allocated tasks and duties at an incident
  - P8 work in ways that keep yourself, others, property and the environment safe and free from harm

#### Decontaminate people and property

- You must be able to:
- P9 work with others to set up a decontamination area for people and property in line with your organisation's procedures
  - P10 select equipment which can be safely used when decontaminating and operate it in line with its limitations, safety and operating instructions
  - P11 apply chosen decontamination methods for people and property safely and in line with the decontamination guidance available
  - P12 assist with the decontamination and safe disposal of contaminated items and materials in line with the decontamination and disposal guidance available

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#### **Support operational incidents**

- You must be able to:**
- P13 maintain access, security and safe exit routes at operational incidents in line with your organisation's procedures
  - P14 restrict the view of the incident in line with your organisation's procedures
  - P15 identify risks which may affect the safety of other people or property in line with your organisation's risk assessment guidance
  - P16 report anything which may adversely affect people's safety to others in line with your organisation's procedures
  - P17 work with others including colleagues and other agencies in line with your organisation's communication procedures
  - P18 provide support to others at the incident in ways which promote calm, compassion and consideration for others

#### **For the whole standard**

- You must be able to:**
- P19 operate safely within your agreed role, responsibility and level of expertise and in line with your organisation's procedures
  - P20 preserve evidence to meet the needs of an investigation in line with your organisation's procedures
  - P21 inform others when people's possessions and property are identified and keep these safe in line with your organisation's procedures
  - P22 return resources after use and make sure they are secured and stored in line with your organisation's procedures

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#### Knowledge and understanding

#### Health and safety

#### You need to know and understand:

- K1 safe working practices of your organisation
- K2 hazards and risks relating to hazardous materials and decontamination affecting people and the environment
- K3 how to use risk assessment information to make decisions
- K4 how to apply decisions based on the assessment of risk
- K5 your organisation's control measures to mitigate risk

#### Organisational

#### You need to know and understand:

- K6 guidelines, legislation and standard operating procedures that apply when dealing with hazardous materials and decontamination
- K7 your organisation's systems, tools and procedures for recording information and how to use them
- K8 types and sources of information about hazardous materials and decontamination and how to access these

#### Personal and Interpersonal

#### You need to know and understand:

- K9 methods and techniques for communicating with others
- K10 the importance of treating others with respect and consideration, taking account of, and accepting, diversity
- K11 how to recognise when people are in distress
- K12 how to support distressed people
- K13 lines and methods of communication and reporting in the workplace
- K14 roles, responsibilities and limits of authority of self, others and other agencies in the workplace

#### Technical

#### You need to know and understand:

- K15 personal protective and operational equipment used in fires and other operational incidents, their capabilities, limitations and safe use

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- K16 how to select personal protective and operational equipment appropriate to the hazardous materials incidents
- K17 roles and responsibilities within the incident command system
- K18 different types of evidence relevant to hazardous materials incidents
- K19 the importance of identifying and preserving evidence at hazardous materials incidents
- K20 how to preserve evidence at hazardous materials incidents
- K21 the importance of limiting damage to property and the environment
- K22 how to limit damage to property and the environment
- K23 how to apply methods and techniques for controlling and containing hazardous materials
- K24 how to apply methods and techniques for decontamination including avoiding further contamination
- K25 how to use different decontamination agents and the materials they are suitable for

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**Additional information**

**Scope/range**

**1 Sources of information about hazardous materials and decontamination**

- 1.1. Chemical meteorology (CHEMET)
- 1.2. Chemical hazard database (CHEMDATA)
- 1.3. TOPS
- 1.4. Chemical industry scheme for assistance in freight (CHEMSAFE)
- 1.5. National Arrangements for Incidents involving Radioactivity (NAIR)
- 1.6. National radiation monitoring network and emergency response system (RIMNET)
- 1.7. Radsafe
- 1.8. The Environment Agency
- 1.9. Local authorities
- 1.10. Organisational policies, procedures and guidelines

**2 Legislation for hazardous materials**

- 2.1 Health and Safety
- 2.2 Control of Substances hazardous to health (COSHH)
- 2.3 Control of Major Accident hazards
- 2.4 Personal protective equipment regulations
- 2.5 Chemical regulations

**3 Incidents**

- 3.1 emergency responses
- 3.2 non emergency responses
- 3.3 any requiring the relocation of resources

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