

# BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order  
No.293

Effective Date  
11-01-1994

Revised Date  
08-02-2006

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Subject: Field Response to Hazardous Materials Emergencies      Reviewed 9/1/16

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## POLICY

It is the policy of this department to prepare for an extended response to certain types of hazardous material incidents, explosions, and other disasters that have the potential for mass destruction and/or casualties.

This is limited to situations that require the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or a coordinated response among several agencies. (Note: The EOC will only be activated in a major Haz Mat situation.)

Currently, hazmat incidents are categorized into 3 levels:

Level I – On site containment, minimal impact, no evacuation or street closure.

Level II - On site containment, but the site's proximity to other areas may require possible street closure, evacuation and/or shelter in place.

Level III – Off site contamination, potential for high impact, possible road closure, evacuation and/or shelter in place. Generally long in duration, with multi agency response.

By these guidelines, the EOC may be activated on some Level II incidents, and Level III.

The primary mission of this department with respect to incidents of this nature is to:

1. Establish a perimeter.
2. Assist in evacuation.
3. Provide entry/exit routes for responders.
4. Provide security for staging and evacuated areas as needed.

**Rescue of injured personnel should be limited to fire and EMS responders due to patient contamination concerns.**

## PROCEDURES

### **I. First Responding Units**

- A. The first unit on scene will be responsible for assessing the gravity of the situation. This will be accomplished by communicating with knowledgeable involved citizens about the situation or communicating with the Fire Department incident commander. The officer will begin the establishment of a perimeter and notify the Communication Center of additional units or agencies required.

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- B. The use of the DOT Emergency Response guidebook should be used as an aid in identifying placard and pertinent information.
- C. Immediate notifications should include:
  - 1. B.R.F.D. Haz Mat call out.
  - 2. B.R.P.D. Explosive/Haz Mat call out.
  - 3. EMS, as needed.
- D. The following specific information will be required by the communication center as soon as possible:
  - 1. The type of event (explosion, chemical spill, etc.).
  - 2. The extent of damage and/or injuries.
  - 3. The location or approximate confined area of the event.
  - 4. Identification of chemical involved (if possible).
- E. Additional responsibilities of the first officer(s) on the scene will include:
  - 1. Establishing a command post site upwind/uphill from the affected area.
  - 2. Stopping all traffic into the area.
- F. The first officer on the scene will assume command and begin the deployment of additional police units as necessary. This officer will be in command until relieved by a field supervisor or senior officer.
- G. The above are general guidelines to follow that are necessary to begin a coordinated effort to bring an incident under control.

**II. First Field Supervisor on the Scene/Scene Objectives**

- A. Haz Mat incidents will require that a field supervisor will be dispatched. The first supervisor on the scene will immediately relieve the officer in command and continue the deployment of police personnel to control the situation. The primary concern at this time will be to:
  - 1. Continue to update Communications as to the extent of damage and area affected.
  - 2. Facilitate the arrival and deployment of other emergency services.
  - 3. If an evacuation is ordered, facilitate the evacuation.
  - 4. Re-evaluate the initial steps previously taken.

**III. B.R.P.D. Explosive Unit**

- A. The Explosive/Hazmat representative who arrives on the scene will assume a joint command with the field supervisor.

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- B. The Explosives/Hazmat representative will act as a liaison between the Police and Fire Department Hazmat Incident Commander. The field supervisor will act as the liaison should the BRPD Explosive/Haz Mat officer is not on scene.
- C. The Uniform Commander on the scene will work with the Explosive/Hazmat representative to deploy the number of personnel necessary to complete the objectives outlined above.
- D. Proper notifications to Bureau Commanders and the Chief of Police as well as Media Relations personnel will also need to be made. Continuous updates will need to be made on a regular basis.
- E. If the incident becomes a long, drawn out event, managing personnel will become necessary. This may include food, restroom, gasoline, equipment, shift relief and/or overtime concerns.
- F. Establish communications on a common radio channel.
- G. If the event appears to extend into a long period of time, (i.e. more that one shift), or cover a large geographical area, the enactment of G.O. 244, Planning for Unusual Occurrences, may be implemented.

#### **IV. BRFD Haz Mat Team Scene Responsibilities**

- A. By virtue of existing City Parish Ordinances the Baton Rouge Fire Department is charged with the safe handling/management of any hazardous material incident occurring within East Baton Rouge Parish.
- B. The BRFD's Hazardous Materials Unit's senior officer on site will serve as the overall incident commander. His authority concerning on-site security, road blocks/closures, evacuation procedures, etc. will supersede those of all other agencies present. Once on site, the BRFD's incident commander will exercise discretion concerning the use of any and all agency personnel made available to him.
- C. It will be understood by all attending BRPD personnel that this discretionary power is a lawful action and has been extended on the basis of professional expertise and prior experience in the handling of emergencies of this type. A failure to comply will be construed as a direct violation of this directive.