

OGDEN CITY POLICE

Office of the Chief

Policy No: 11

Subject Hazardous/Dangerous Materials	Effective Date August 2020
Department Police	Replaces Policy Dated March 2018
Division All Police Personnel	Review Date August 2024
Authorized Signature 	

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this agency, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to standardize the response procedures of the Ogden City Police Department to incidents involving hazardous/dangerous materials. It is designed with concern for the safety of the officers and community and is directed primarily at materials that are stored and used within the community, but it will also be followed in the event of a transportation incident.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Ogden City Police Department that in the event of a hazardous/ dangerous material incident, the primary concern will be the safety of its officers and community. Primary command responsibility for hazardous material incidents from an operational perspective rests with Ogden Fire. Ogden City Police will respond to hazardous material incidents both as initial responder until Fire establishes command and as support to the Fire command.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Approach the incident cautiously from uphill and upwind. Do not rush in; others cannot be helped until the situation has been fully assessed.

- B. Secure the scene. Without entering the immediate hazard area, isolate the area and assure the safety of people and the environment, keep people away from the scene and outside the safety perimeter.
- C. Protect yourself: Do not walk into or touch any spilled material and avoid inhaling fumes, smoke, or vapors. Do not assume that gasses and vapors are harmless because of the lack of smell.
- D. If on scene prior to the Fire response, attempt to identify the hazards. This will only be attempted if it looks like it can be accomplished safely. Binoculars are excellent tools for this sort of activity. The Hazard Placards displayed on shipping containers and vehicles present one of the quickest means for hazard identification. These placards can quickly be referenced in the USDOT Emergency Response Guidebook, and the information relayed to responding Fire units.

1. Communications Center

Federal law requires that every business that handles or stores hazardous materials notify local emergency responders of the type and quantity of material on their site at any given time. This information has been forwarded to our Communications Center; it has been entered into the Spillman CAD System and is available for our use.

2. On-Site Coordinator

The same federal law also requires that these businesses appoint a person to act as a liaison between the business and emergency responders. They are available 24 hours a day and are familiar with the material on hand and its potential danger. A list of on-site coordinators has been provided to the dispatchers and is available thru the Spillman CAD System.

3. Duty Officer

The Duty Officer will proceed to Fire Command and establish the police element of that command.

- E. Until such time that it is known to be safe for a non-protected entry, officers will not enter the hazardous zone for lifesaving or any other reason. When the hazardous material is unknown or the hazard zone is unsafe, officer entry becomes a part of the problem instead of the solution.

IV. COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Coordinate with Fire Department

Immediately upon notification, the duty officer is to report to the on-scene Fire Commander at the designated command center. Subsequent actions for both police and fire personnel will be coordinated through this command.

B. Maintain Control of the Site

Site control includes both departmental resources as well as non-departmental resources either at or responding to the site, as well as the public and the press.

C. Warning

1. Often people are adequately protected from exposure within their own homes or other buildings (sheltering in place) and since evacuation creates many other major problems, consideration should first be given to allow people to remain indoors until the hazard has passed.
2. Each person within the hazard zone must receive warning of the impending hazard and be instructed to close all exterior openings in the buildings and shut off all forced air heating or air conditioning.
3. The warning may be accomplished by several means depending upon the severity of the hazard and the time factor: going door-to-door, broadcasting the message over the P.A. of a patrol car, or telephone alerts thru CodeRed and IPAWS Wireless Emergency Alerts or other similar notifications. Radio and television may also be used but should be considered unreliable and a supplemental means must be used with it. The mechanism and context of the warning will come from Command and should not be an independent action of officers.
4. An important consideration that determines the method of warning must be the safety of the officer. At no time will an officer be exposed to the hazards that they are warning the public of.

D. Evacuation

1. Under Sec. 111.2 of the International Fire Code which has been adopted by the state of Utah, the Fire Chief or his authorized representative has the authority to order an evacuation. This

decision, however, is of such magnitude that it will be made jointly between Police and Fire representatives while utilizing other experts in the decision-making process. Special consideration must be given to unique establishments, such as nursing homes, convalescent centers, and schools, where transportation can become a major problem.

2. After all alternatives have been weighed and it is decided that evacuation is necessary, the Police and Fire representatives will determine which evacuation shelter to send the evacuees to and which route they will take to the chosen shelter. Consideration will also be given to the following:
 - a. Assigning officers to man traffic control points to maintain a smooth flow of evacuation traffic.
 - b. Providing security for the evacuation center.
 - c. Establishing police support and security at the site and other places where looting or crowd control may be a problem. Extreme care must be taken that officers are not exposed to the hazard present. They should stay out of any contaminated area or be provided with adequate protective clothing to function properly.
 - d. Establishing adequate relief and shift schedules for police officers for the duration of the incident.

V. BOMB COMPLAINTS AND THREATS

Under 76-10-306 UCR, a police officer needs to investigate circumstances wherein a person creates an explosive, chemical, or incendiary device. An explosive, chemical, or incendiary device is basically any container built so as to explode or throw forth its contents in a manner calculated to endanger people or property.

A. Scope

An investigating officer generally gets this type of call as a result of someone cleaning out old storage areas where old military or civilian explosives of unknown age are located. Most military and civilian explosives are color-coded and have descriptions printed on the outside. The key is to not touch or move these containers because explosives become unstable with age and may blow up if moved. The initial officer should gather all the information possible regarding:

1. Size.

2. Shape.
3. Markings on container.
4. When and how device was located.
5. How device got into its present location.
6. Who is responsible for the property where the device is located.

B. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the investigating officer to keep the area as undisturbed and safe as possible for everyone concerned.

If a device is found that raises suspicion or stability questions, then the duty officer will call the appropriate explosive ordnance disposal unit.

If a device is found accompanied by a threat, either written or oral, the initial officer needs to determine:

1. The nature of the threat.
2. Source of threat or how delivered.
3. Exact wording of threat to include any background noise or caller mannerisms if threat is oral.
4. Time elements.
 - a. When delivered.
 - b. Time device is to detonate.
5. Evacuation.
 - a. Generally, to be determined by property owner with or without your advice.
 - b. Area should be determined by bomb unit if time allows.
 - c. Notification of utilities, fire and neighbors may be necessary.

If the bomb threat is only a threat, so far, contact the person receiving the threat and determine:

1. Exact wording of the threat.
2. Time elements involved.

3. Where the bomb is located or what it looks like.
4. Who or what is the target.
5. Why the threat was made.

Remember, unless you know what the bomb looks like and exactly where it is located, the person most familiar with the property can make the best physical search. Your job is to help organize, coordinate, and advise this search procedure.