


PBP FORM 290  PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF POLICE <i>"...honor, integrity, courage, respect, and compassion."</i>		SUBJECT: "HAZMAT INCIDENT RESPONSE"	ORDER NUMBER: 42-7
		PLEAC STANDARD: 2.2.1	PAGE 1 OF 5
REVISE DATE: 11/21/2016	EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/15/2012	ANNUAL REVIEW DATE: NOVEMBER	RESCINDS: ALL PREVIOUS
			AMENDS: NONE

1.0 POLICY OR PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide officers with guidelines for all incidents involving hazardous materials.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 [REDACTED]
- 2.2 Clandestine Drug Laboratory – an unlicensed chemical laboratory, whether simple or complex, fixed or mobile, designed in secrecy, for the experimentation in or actual production of illegal, controlled, or dangerous substances.
- 2.3 Clandestine Laboratory Response Team (CLRT) – Team that is appropriately trained and equipped to ensure the safest and most effective response to a clandestine drug laboratory. This team is responsible for the removal of hazardous substances to the extent necessary to preclude the occurrence of foreseeable adverse health effects.
- 2.4 Control Zones – Areas established by the HAZMAT and/or CLRT Incident Commander relative to the levels of contamination to include:
 [REDACTED]
- 2.5 Hazardous Materials – (HAZMAT) – Any substance (gas, liquid, solid, chemical, biological, or nuclear); because of its flammability, combustibility, corrosiveness, explosiveness, toxicity, radioactivity, carcinogenic nature, or bioactivity that poses a threat to the health and safety of humans, the environment, and/or the destruction or property; and any substance designated as hazardous under state and/or federal law.
- 2.6 HAZMAT Incident (HMI) - An actual or potential unplanned/uncontrolled release of a hazardous material, or an actual or potential planned/intentional release of hazardous materials (chemical terrorism, biological terrorism, clandestine or illegal labs).
- 2.7 Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) – A group of trained personnel from the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and the Bureau of Fire who respond to releases of hazardous materials for the purpose of control and stabilization of the incident.
- 2.8 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) – Items such as respiratory protection or skin protection used to eliminate or reduce exposure to agents. The HAZMAT Incident Commander will determine appropriate levels of protection.

2.9 Special response Team (SRT) - Team of officers from the Bureau of Police who are trained in responding to terrorist incidents including release of HAZMAT/WMD.

2.10 Time, Distance and Shielding – The key to self-protection at the scene of a HAZMAT incident: spend as little time as possible in the hazard area; create distance between the hazard area and any staging areas; and create physical barriers between you and the hazard site (vehicles, buildings, PPE).

3.0 PROCEDURES FOR INITIATING A HAZMAT/CLANDESTINE LAB INCIDENT

3.1 A police officer, in the course of routine duties, may encounter or happen upon an incident involving a spill or release of hazardous materials. Hazmat incidents occur under a wide variety of circumstances including: accidents involving transportation vehicles (rail, highway, marine; incidents at fixed facilities; pipeline disruptions; terrorism; or clandestine laboratories.

3.2 The following guidelines will be followed when initiating a hazmat/ clandestine lab incident:

3.2.1 The initial responding officers to arrive at a potential HAZMAT scene shall:

3.2.1.1 [Redacted]

3.2.2 Officers already at the scene shall immediately implement the self-protective measures of time, distance and shielding.

[Redacted]

3.2.2.1 The responding officer will contact Communications via police radio and provide information on the circumstances of the release.

3.2.2.2 Officers shall ensure that a police supervisor is en route to the scene.

3.2.2.3 If possible, the officer must try to determine the agent type without placing him/herself in jeopardy. [Redacted]

3.2.2.4 If possible, the officer should attempt to determine the number of persons injured and the types of symptoms visible from a distance.

3.2.2.5 [Redacted]

3.2.2.6 Officer shall wait for the HMRT and/or CLRT to arrive and provide a briefing to the HAZMAT/CLRT Incident Commander.

3.2.2.7 [Redacted]

4.0 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RESPONDING TO A HAZMAT INCIDENT

4.1 Immediately upon notification by an officer or Communications, a police supervisor shall respond to the hazmat incident scene and ensure the following tasks are completed:

4.1.1 Ensure that officer(s) who have been exposed to any agent seek **immediate** decontamination and medical assistance.

4.1.2 Ensure that a Command Post has been established and that command post security is immediately established. The highest-ranking officials present from each responding agency must man the Command Post. A unified command presence is required to facilitate response and recovery from a HAZMAT/CLRT incident.

4.1.3 Coordinate with the HMRT and/or CLRT to review strategic objectives and tactical plans.

4.1.4 Check in and obtain a briefing from the Incident Commander.

4.1.5 Consult with the HMRT and/or CLRT Safety Officer and ensure that responding officers are equipped with the proper level of personal protection.

4.1.6 [REDACTED]

4.1.7 Determine what resources are required to assist the HMRT and/or CLRT in traffic control, evacuation, staging area security, perimeter security, decontamination area security, and any other types of assistance that the Bureau of Police can provide.

4.1.8 Initiate procedures to maintain a written log of events to include times, events, personnel, and other assets.

4.2 Responding personnel should make attempts to determine if the release of the hazardous material was criminal in nature.

4.2.1 [REDACTED]

4.2.2 [REDACTED]

4.2.3 Procedures for interviewing witnesses and victims; collecting and labeling personal property and evidence; and establishing security at the decontamination triage, treatment, and transportation sites should be immediately established.

5.0 RESPONSE PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO A CLANDESTINE LABORATORY

5.1 In addition to the above HAZMAT procedures, officers who encounter a suspected clandestine drug laboratory shall immediately exit, taking precautions not to touch or smell any of the laboratory equipment, immediately secure the scene, and contact a supervisor. Do not smoke, drink, eat, or chew gum at the scene of a clandestine laboratory.

5.2 Secure any suspects and complete appropriate reports.

5.3 Officers/Detectives at the scene of a clandestine laboratory shall not stop or alter any power or water source; dismantle any equipment; or handle any chemicals, containers, and/or apparent finished products without the direction of the DEA CLRT.

- 5.4 Immediately upon notification by an officer or Communications, a police supervisor will respond to the clandestine laboratory scene.
- 5.5 Ensure that the HMRT has been notified and dispatched to the scene. The HMRT will be responsible for the initial evaluation of the scene to ensure the safety of the public and all emergency responders.
- 5.6 Ensure that the DEA Clandestine Laboratory Response Team (CLRT) has been notified and their assistance has been requested.
- 5.7 Contact the Investigations Branch and request assistance from the Narcotics Unit and any other units that are deemed necessary.
- 5.8 If children live in or have otherwise been exposed to the lab site; the supervisor will ensure that Children, Youth, and Families Services (CYF) are contacted in addition to Major Crimes Sex Assault/Family Crisis Unit.
- 5.9 With the assistance of the DEA, (CLRT) the Supervisor shall ensure that all evidence is properly gathered and packaged. The Crime Unit should be notified to assist with this task and to photograph the scene and hazardous materials that will be destroyed. *No hazardous materials are to be gathered and packaged as evidence or sent to the Crime Lab. Photographs shall be taken of these materials and then they shall be properly disposed.*
- 5.10 Once the laboratory has been rendered safe, the DEA CLRT will dismantle the lab and gather necessary evidence. Hazardous Materials seized from a clandestine laboratory shall be removed in compliance with prescribed Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. If the DEA CLRT is unable or unwilling to take responsibility for the removal and disposal of hazardous materials, then the Supervisor shall notify the private contractor in place with City of Pittsburgh and have them respond to the scene to remove the hazardous materials.
- 5.11 Supervisors shall ensure that an officer remains on scene until the clean up is complete.

6.0 CLANDESTINE DRUG LABORATORY DATA REPOSITORY

6.1 The Controlled Substance Act 35 P.S. 113.2 requires the Pennsylvania State Police to maintain a statewide repository of data relating to clandestine drug laboratory dump sites and the seizure of chemicals, glassware and other laboratory implements associated with manufacturing controlled substances and develop and implement a program to enable collection of data and reporting thereof by PA law enforcement agencies shall be sent to the repository within 20 days of acquisition. *(Effective September 15, 2005)*

7.0 EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANTS AT A CLANDESTINE LABORATORY SITE

7.1 When executing a search warrant at a clandestine laboratory site, the supervisor overseeing the serving of the warrant shall be responsible for ensuring that the following tasks are completed:



8.0 RESPONSE PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO AN INDOOR MARIJUANA GROWTH OPERATION

8.1 Upon discovery of an indoor marijuana growth operation, the responding officers shall notify a supervisor and clear the structure for any potential actors/threats within the structure in the most efficient manner possible with the least amount of time spent within the structure, as possible.

8.2 Officers shall then immediately retreat from the structure, as indoor growth operations may expose officers to toxics strains of mold, low oxygen levels, pesticides, and/or fertilizers. Such exposure may result in physical illness.

8.3 [REDACTED]

8.4 Officers shall then notify the Detective Desk, requesting that Narcotics and Vice Detectives with clan lab certification respond.

8.5 Certified Narcotics and Vice Detectives shall respond to collect evidence, dismantle the growth operation, and dispose of the contaminated equipment.

9.0 DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES FOLLOWING EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

9.1 The HAZMAT or CLRT Incident Commander will establish the decontamination procedures specific to the type of agent.

9.2 If an officer has come into contact with any chemical and/or biological agent(s) and decontamination procedures have not yet been established, the officer may need to conduct an emergency self-decontamination procedure. The officer should contact the Emergency Operations Center for proper guidance on the recommended decontamination procedure.

10.0 PROCEDURES FOR EVACUATION AND SHELTERING

10.1 The HAZMAT or CLRT Incident Commander and the City of Pittsburgh Emergency Management Agency will determine the areas that require evacuation or sheltering in place (seeking shelter from hazardous material by remaining at the initial location). The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police will support this function by utilizing personnel to relay information and instructions to citizens. The use of the PA system in vehicles is highly recommended.

Approved By:

Scott Schubert
A/Chief of Police

REFERENCES

[REDACTED]