



Amherst County Fire/EMS

Standard Operating Guidelines

Subject:	Hazardous Materials Response
Reference Number:	
Effective Date:	May 1, 2025
Revision Date:	N/A
Signature of Approval:	Chief of Fire/EMS

Purpose: Establish a standardized plan for responses involving hazardous materials

Dangers/Hazards: Hazardous materials pose many types of dangers – The safety of all personnel shall remain the highest priority at all times.

Procedures: Hazardous Materials (HazMat) responses shall be treated slowly and methodically with *safety* being the number one concern.

- While responding, consider wind direction, weather conditions, topography of land, waterways, and high hazards in the area (schools, nursing homes, etc.).
- Any member operating on a HazMat incident shall only work within their scope and training.
- The current Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) shall be used as a resource.
- HazMat incidents shall include notifying the Virginia EOC in Richmond and requesting a call from the regional VDEM HazMat Coordinator
- The appropriate railroad contact shall be notified immediately for all incidents occurring on a railroad.
- When dealing with any unknown product or substance, a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) shall be requested from the company or transporter.
- If a HazMat team is needed, Lynchburg Fire Department is a local resource. The IC shall request to make contact with the on-duty LFD HazMat Battalion Chief.
- Personnel shall only be sent down-range when it is absolutely necessary for life safety. All HazMat scenes shall be treated as an IDLH environment.
- Refer to the most current copy of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) for specific PPE recommendations and other useful information specific to the chemical or product involved.