

# **ADAMS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 10A**

### **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

**Primary Agencies:** Adams County Emergency Management

**Support Agencies:** Fire Departments and Districts  
Law Enforcement Agencies  
Adams County Integrated Health Care Services  
Emergency Dispatch Centers  
Public Works/Engineering Departments  
American Red Cross  
Washington State Department of Ecology

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

**A. Purpose** – The purpose of this support function is to provide for the effective and coordinated response by County and City Governments to protect emergency workers and the public from adverse effects of hazardous material emergencies within Adams County.

**B. Scope** – This Emergency Support Function (ESF) applies to all emergencies involving the actual or potential release of radioactive or non-radioactive hazardous materials within or affecting Adams County, except for those originating from the Energy Northwest, Columbia Generating Station. Response to hazardous material emergencies at those facilities will be carried out in accordance with the hazard-specific response plans for those activities.

#### **II. POLICIES**

**A.** Hazardous materials responders will be trained and qualified in accordance with the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120.

#### **III. SITUATION**

##### **A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards**

1. All areas of Adams County are vulnerable to the damaging effects of emergencies involving the use, processing, storage, or transportation of, hazardous materials.
2. The types and quantities of hazardous materials that may be in Adams County at any single time are subject to change.
3. Transportation of hazardous materials through Adams County creates a potential for emergencies affecting populated areas. Materials transported through populated areas by road and rail creates the most significant hazard due to their frequency and quantity.

## **B. Planning Assumptions**

1. Geographic, demographic and meteorological characteristics of the impacted area will affect the response to and impact of any hazardous materials incident.
2. The possible effects of an emergency could range from a small cleanup problem to the evacuation of residences, businesses and special facilities.
3. Protective actions that may be necessary for the public in the affected area may include sheltering; evacuation; and the protection of animals, water and food supplies. The choice of protective actions will depend on many factors including the magnitude, severity and urgency of the situation, the characteristics of the area, population involved, weather and road conditions.
4. In all responses to Hazardous Materials incidents, the Incident Command System (ICS) will be used as an on-scene management tool for control of the incident and the surrounding area.
5. In the event of a serious hazardous materials incident, spontaneous evacuations may occur without official recommendations to do so.
6. In the event of an evacuation, a least 75% of the population at risk will relocate to private homes, or hotel/motel facilities. For planning purposes, mass care resources will be identified for 25% of the risk population.

## **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **A. General**

#### **1. Primary Agencies**

- A. The Board of County Commissioners and/or the Mayors of incorporated cities have authority and responsibility for direction and control of a jurisdiction's activities in response to the effects of any emergency or disaster including Hazardous Materials.
- B. If an emergency situation goes beyond the normal capabilities of local emergency services, the Emergency Chairman will assume responsibility and will issue a proclamation of emergency. This proclamation authorizes the emergency use of resources and emergency expenditures, and activates the emergency plan and program.

#### **2. Support Agencies**

- A. Sample support agency category, characteristics or duties?
- B. Sample support agency category, characteristics or duties?

### **B. Organization**

#### **1. Primary Agencies**

- A. **ADAMS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** The primary planning/coordination responsibility for hazardous materials emergencies is vested in Adams County Emergency Management (ACEM).

#### **2. Support Agencies**

- A. OTHELLO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL:** The Othello Community Hospital has the capability to decontaminate individuals.
- B. EAST ADAMS RURAL HOSPITAL:** The East Adams Rural Hospital had the capability to decontaminate individuals.
- C. DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY:** The Washington Department of Ecology has been assigned responsibility to protect Adams County's water supplies and sewage systems from the effects of a hazardous material incident.

### C. Procedures

None does this need updated?

### D. Mitigation Activities

1. A medical surveillance program will be instituted by the responsible organizations for all employees engaged in Hazardous Materials operations. This includes a baseline physical, yearly physical (or as soon as possible if the employee has developed signs or symptoms indicating possible overexposure to hazardous substances). An accurate record of the medical surveillance shall be retained as required by 29 CFR 1910.120.
2. All employees routinely exposed to hazardous substances shall receive a minimum of 40 hours initial training in work practices and safety before job assignment.
3. Personal protective clothing will be provided to protect employees from the hazards and potential hazards they are likely to encounter on the incident site. This includes, but is not limited to, totally encapsulated protective suits and self-contained breathing apparatus.

### E. Preparedness

1. The Local Emergency Planning Committee may form emergency planning and right-to-know subcommittees. They will provide oversight to the Committee for development of an emergency plan for response to all hazardous material emergencies. They will also ensure that community right-to-know information is updated and available to the public. This plan will be reviewed annually and updated to identify existing and needed manpower and equipment resources and should conduct an annual hazardous materials emergency exercise.
2. Adams County Emergency Management is responsible for carrying out the program and coordinating the mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts of Adams County and the cities within the county.
3. Methods for exercising the plan will include tabletop exercises, functional drills and exercises, and full-scale exercises.
  - A.** Tabletop exercises will be used to train personnel and to identify deficiencies in the plan.
  - B.** Functional drills and exercises will be used to train personnel and test specific portions of the plan.
  - C.** Full-scale exercises will be used to test the entire plan, with all functions being demonstrated.

4. Tabletop and/or functional exercises will be conducted annually, with a full-scale exercise being conducted at least biennially. These exercises may be combined with other exercises required by other existing programs managed by Adams County Emergency Management.

## **F. Response Activities**

1. Two methods of warning may be used in Adams County: The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Route Alerting.
  - A. The Emergency Alert System is the primary warning method in Adams County. It can be activated by Adams County Emergency Management or the Adams County Dispatch Center, according to the procedures contained in the Emergency Alert System Plan - Columbia Basin Operational Area. This system relies on all Radio and Television stations in the area to re-broadcast any emergency messages immediately. The Emergency Alert System results in wide-area alerting of up to four counties.
  - B. Route alerting may be used in addition to an Emergency Alert System message. Route alerting includes the use of loud speakers or public address systems on emergency vehicles or door-to-door canvassing of an area to ensure that residents have received the warning. In fast-breaking situations when protective actions must be taken immediately, route alerting would be the most expeditious method to warn the public. However, the ability to conduct route alerting would be limited if the safety of emergency workers is in question. Route Alerting is the most time-consuming of the methods available, but can be concentrated in a smaller area.
2. Protective actions will be decided upon by the Incident Commander or, after an emergency has been declared, by the Emergency Chairman in the Emergency Operations Center. Decisions made to avoid or minimize exposure to hazardous materials will be based on many factors including:
  - A. Type and quantity of material
  - B. Duration of a release
  - C. Projected time that a release is expected if it has not already occurred.
  - D. Meteorological conditions
  - E. Characteristics of the population that may be affected
  - F. Most likely exposure pathway, i.e. direct exposure through inhalation or contact with the material, or contamination of water and food supplies
  - G. Effects from the exposure pathways of concern
3. There are two basic protective actions that may be taken.
  - A. Shelter in place - the public would be instructed to stay indoors with all windows and vents closed to prevent any outside air from entering the structure.
  - B. Evacuation - the public would be instructed to leave a designated area.
4. Additionally, there are secondary controls that can be used for further protection.

- A.** Access Control - prevent the public from entering a designated area.
  - B.** Ingestion protection - prevent the public and animals from consuming contaminated foods or water.
5. Once the hazards of the site have been identified, the appropriate personal protective equipment shall be selected that provides a level of protection at or below permissible exposure limits.
  6. Law enforcement will be in charge of route alerting and/or evacuation and will determine the appropriate evacuation routes and access control points.
  7. The Incident Commander is responsible to ensure the safety of all emergency workers and will appoint a safety officer to carry out this responsibility.
  8. As outlined in Title 29 CFR 1910.120, all suspected conditions that may pose inhalation or skin absorption hazards that are immediately dangerous to life, health, or other conditions that may cause health or serious harm, shall be identified during the preliminary survey.
  9. Additional information in the form of news releases and briefings will be released by the on-scene Public Information Officer. After activation of the Emergency Operations Center, information will be coordinated with the on-scene Public Information Officer and released by the Emergency Operations Center Public Information Officer.
  10. The designated hazardous materials Incident Commander will assume operational control, make necessary decisions and initiate warnings to protect the health and safety of the public near the scene, as well as emergency workers on the scene.
  11. The designated incident command agency in Adams County for hazardous materials incidents is the Washington State Patrol. The Washington State Patrol has incident command authority for all hazardous materials emergencies.
  12. The Adams County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at 2069 West Highway 26, Othello, Washington, will be activated as needed in order to be used as a point of central control and coordination. Representatives of emergency response organizations (and the facility involved, if at a fixed site) will report to the center to assist in decision-making and to coordinate their efforts. The Emergency Manager is responsible for managing the operations of the Emergency Operations Center. Upon activation, all public information and news releases will be issued from the Emergency Operations Center. All requests for resources and information should be passed from on-scene operations to the Emergency Operations Center.
  13. The Emergency Operations Center will be the point of central control and coordination. The on-scene command post will be the point of coordination for field operations and the carrying out of decisions made in the Emergency Operations Center.
  14. If the capabilities and resources of Adams County (including existing mutual aid agreements) become exhausted, or are in imminent danger of becoming exhausted, a request for assistance will be made to the State Emergency Management Division.
  15. **Response levels** categorize hazardous materials incidents by the severity of the threat to public health or the environment. The severity of an incident is dependent

on the amount of material spilled, the location, the toxicity of the material, and potential for exposure. Three levels of emergencies are defined by increasing severity, as follows:

Response Level	Description
A. Potential Emergency Condition	An incident or threat of a release which can be controlled by the first response agencies and does not require evacuation of other than the involved structure or the immediate outdoor area. The incident is confined to a small area and does not pose an immediate threat to life or property.
B. Limited Emergency Condition	An incident involving a greater hazard or larger area which poses a potential threat to life or property and which may require a limited evacuation of the surrounding area.
C. Full Emergency Condition	An incident involving a severe hazard or a large area which poses extreme threat to life and property and will probably require a large scale evacuation; or an incident requiring the expertise or resources of County, State, Federal or private agencies/organizations.

### G. Recovery Activities

1. The techniques and equipment used to contain a release would depend on the type, site, health hazard, and environmental impact. The situations can be so varied that the incident commander will have to make the determination. The cleanup would be the responsibility of the party causing the incident and shall be determined by the Department of Ecology. Any long-term site control will be the responsibility of the party who caused the spill and may involve Ecology oversight.

## V. RESPONSIBILITIES

**A. MAYOR/COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** The elected officials of the jurisdictions at risk have ultimate responsibility for decision making within their jurisdiction in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

**B. ADAMS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** ACEM will:

1. Maintain and manage the Emergency Operations Center.
2. Maintain the response plans and procedures and assist in training programs for response to hazardous materials incidents.
3. Maintain a resource directory to support hazardous materials and emergency response.
4. Assist the Emergency Operations Center Public Information Officer in disseminating public information and instructions.
5. Collect all data and submit the required documentation to the State Military Department's Emergency Management Division.

**C. FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICTS:**

1. The senior fire officer in the jurisdiction where a hazardous materials incident occurs will assume the role of Incident Commander on-scene and will implement the Incident Command System to contain the hazardous materials and protect the public, emergency workers and the environment. The senior fire official may transfer Incident Command to the Adams County Sheriff's Office if necessary.
2. The Incident Commander will make necessary protective action decisions for the public and emergency workers prior to the declaration of an emergency.
3. After declaration of an emergency, the Incident Commander will coordinate development of protective action decisions for the public and emergency workers with the Emergency Chairman in the Emergency Operations Center.

**D. LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

1. The Adams County Sheriff's Office is the designated Incident Command Agency of the County and may assume Incident Command when necessary from respective fire agency.
2. Each law enforcement agency will develop procedures for traffic control, route alerting, evacuation and security for their jurisdiction.
3. Law enforcement personnel will attend appropriate hazardous materials training and conduct training on standard operating procedures.
4. The law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the area of the event will provide staff support to the Emergency Operations Center and will supervise re-entry into affected areas.

**E. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:**

1. Each emergency medical agency will conduct hazardous material and incident command system training for their responders and formulate a course of action to provide necessary medical attention for emergency workers and the public.
2. They will also provide staff support, if needed, for the Emergency Operations Center.

**F. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Adams County Integrated Health Care Services will:

1. Provide staff support for the Emergency Operations Center.
2. Provide advice on health impacts and protective actions.
3. Enforce health and sanitation regulations.
4. Assist Emergency Medical Services personnel in coordinating medical services for emergency workers and the public.
5. The health officer will advise the Emergency Chairman in the Emergency Operations Center regarding re-entry into contaminated areas.

**G. EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTERS:** All emergency communications facilities covered by this plan will:

1. Develop and maintain standard operating guidance, checklists, and resource listings.

2. Receive and disseminate notifications to designated response agencies and maintain communications capabilities for participating members.
  3. Adams County Dispatch will provide staff support to Emergency Operations Center.
- H. PUBLIC WORKS:** The Public Works and/or Engineering departments of all jurisdictions will:
1. Develop, maintain, and provide training to personnel on hazardous materials operating procedures.
  2. Provide traffic barrier material as requested by law enforcement agencies.
  3. Provide heavy equipment and diking material as requested by Incident Commander.
  4. Provide staff support for the Emergency Operations Center.
- I. TRANSPORTATION:** The local school districts will:
1. Provide transportation resources as requested by the incident commander or the Emergency Operations Center.
  2. Maintain a current listing of bus, taxi, and/or other agencies and their availability of equipment and drivers for emergency use.
  3. Provide staff support to the Emergency Operations Center.
- J. AMERICAN RED CROSS:** The American Red Cross will:
1. Provide training in shelter operations and maintain a list of shelter resources.
  2. Provide mass care for disaster victims, food for emergency workers and individualized assistance to families.
  3. Handle all welfare inquiries for concerned families outside the disaster area.
  4. Provide the central collection point for victim names, by consolidating information received from the three hospitals with shelter information.
  5. Provide staff support to the Emergency Operations Center.
- K. FIXED FACILITIES WITH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:** The fixed facility with hazardous materials will:
1. Develop an on-site contingency plan that specifies notification and emergency response procedures and responsibilities.
  2. Notify the emergency dispatch center of a release and the projected area of impact and provide technical and planning support for the off-site area.
  3. Provide staff support to the command post and Emergency Operations Center to advise the Incident Commander and decision-makers.
- L. STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY:** The Washington Department of Ecology will:
1. Advise the incident commander for spill response and cleanup.
  2. Provide on-scene coordination, technical information on containment, cleanup, disposal and recovery, environmental damage assessment, chemical analysis and evidence collection for enforcement actions for non-radioactive hazardous materials incidents.

3. Maintain a resource list of cleanup contractors, equipment and technical/scientific personnel for non-radioactive hazardous materials incidents.
4. Serve as the State on-scene coordinator under the National Contingency Plan.
5. Provide funding for cleanup of some non-radioactive hazardous materials incidents.
6. Coordinate damage assessments of moderate and major spills by activating the State Natural Resource Damage Assessment Team (NRDA) when appropriate.

**VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

*none*

**VII. REFERENCES**

*noted in ESF*

**VIII. ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS**

*see section IV of the CEMP*

**APPROVED - \_\_\_\_\_**

**DATED - \_\_\_\_\_**

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