

Hazardous Material Response - Includes Collection and Packaging of Drugs

406.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Hazardous materials present a potential harm to members of the Sahuarita Police Department (SPD) by way of possible exposure. The purpose of this policy to provide guidelines to members of the SPD in order to comply with state and federal law and other required standards in regards to hazardous material. Members of this department should also be familiar with the Town's Health and Safety Program manual, which provides additional guidance in regards to exposure to hazardous materials. Dealing with a hazardous material can also include the collection of evidence such as but not limited to interaction with dangerous and/or illegal drugs or substances.

406.2 DEFINITIONS

Hazardous material - Matter or energy that when released or is in close proximity to people, is capable of creating harm to people, the environment, and property, including weapons of mass destruction or as outlined in ARS 26-301(8). A hazardous material may also include certain drugs or medications.

406.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

- A. Members may encounter situations involving suspected hazardous materials, such as at the scene of a traffic collision, chemical spill, fire or having to deal with certain dangerous drugs and/or medications. When members come into contact with a suspected hazardous material, certain steps should be taken to protect themselves and other persons.
- B. To assist members in taking necessary steps to protect themselves, safety equipment is provided to members and additional safety equipment/personal protective equipment is available at the SPD. Safety items not available or maintained by the SPD will be obtained through the appropriate fire department (Rural Metro Fire Department or the Green Valley Fire Department) or other agency or organization.
- C. Members should not perform tasks or use equipment without proper training.
- D. The fire department is the agency trained, tasked with and equipped to properly respond to and mitigate most hazardous materials and biohazards.
 1. Officers who may come upon a situation in which dangerous drugs and/or medications may be in a form too dangerous to collect and/or package as evidence or safekeeping, shall defer the collection and possible packaging to fire department personnel who can don advanced personal protective equipment (e.g., Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus-SBCA).
 2. If local fire personnel do not have the capability to collect these types of hazardous materials, officers shall request additional help and direction through the chain of command. An area or scene may need to be appropriately cordoned off to prevent possible exposure to others.

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3. In accordance with Lexipol 802, members are to assure dangerous drugs and/or medications that have to be collected are done in a secure manner and packaged securely so as not to inappropriately expose others.
- E. Members should be mindful that any individual (fire, SPD, civilian, etc.) entering an area with hazardous material or biohazards may require decontamination before they are allowed to depart the scene and should be evaluated by appropriate technicians and medical professionals for signs of exposure.
- F. The following steps should be considered at any scene involving suspected hazardous materials:
 1. Attempt to identify the type of hazardous material. All members are provided with binoculars, so if they are able to, can identify and assess a hazardous situation from a safe distance.
 - (a) Identification can be determined by placard, a driver's manifest or statements from the person transporting or handling/dealing with the material.
 - i. Members should use their North American Emergency Response Guidebook, or associated application, if assistance is needed in identifying a placard or other marking.
 2. Notify Communications reference the potential for hazardous material or a biohazard and request a response from the fire department.
 3. Provide first aid to injured parties if it can be done safely and without contamination.
 4. Begin evacuation of the immediate and surrounding areas dependent on the material.
 - (a) Mandatory evacuation may be necessary, depending on the material and circumstances.
 - (b) Voluntary evacuation should be considered.
 5. Members should remain upwind of the hazard, if possible, until a safety zone and a decontamination area is established.

406.4 REPORTING EXPOSURE TO A HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

A. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Members who believe they have been exposed to a hazardous material shall immediately report the exposure to a supervisor or superior officer.
2. Each exposure shall be documented by the member in a police report. If the affected member is unable to document the exposure for any reason, it shall be the responsibility of the supervisor or superior officer to cause the exposure to be documented in a police report.

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3. Injury or illness caused or believed to be caused from exposure to hazardous materials shall be reported to a supervisor or superior officer the same as any other on-duty injury or illness.

B. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. When a supervisor or superior officer has been informed that a member has been exposed to a hazardous material, he/she shall ensure that immediate medical treatment is obtained and appropriate action is taken to treat the exposure.
2. The supervisor or superior officer shall also ensure necessary notifications are made to all required entities and town personnel as required in the Town of Sahuarita Health and Safety Program manual, Town Policy and SPD GOs and directives.

406.5 TRAINING

- A. Members will obtain training on hazardous materials, the use of the North American Emergency Response Guidebook and any other relevant equipment or resources upon employment with the SPD.
 1. Members who attend a police academy, may obtain this training while at the academy, and necessary familiarization with SPD resources will be provided throughout advanced basic training, a member's field training program and possible advanced officer training.

406.6 POLICY ISSUANCE OR REVIEW

06/13/2024 - Reviewed by Chief John D. Noland - SP#002