

"Keep Orlando a safe city by reducing crime and maintaining livable neighborhoods."

**ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
1507.0, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM (HAZMAT)**

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PURPOSE: To establish the staffing and operating procedures of the Hazardous Materials Team (Hazmat).

1. PHILOSOPHY

The Hazmat Team is a volunteer group staffed by members from various units of the Department. The team shall respond to incidents involving the threat of or actual release of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive material, or any other incident involving a weapon of mass destruction.

PROCEDURES

2. STAFFING

The ERT Team Commander shall be a command officer appointed by the Chief of Police upon staff recommendations. If the Deputy Team Commanders are of the same rank as the ERT Team Commander, they shall be subject to the command and direction of the team commander. The Hazmat Team Commander, supervisor, or designee shall be the overall authority relating to any hazmat or weapons of mass destruction incident as this position requires advanced training and expertise at the Hazmat Technician level, medical surveillance, and must have met the competencies outlined in OSHA 1910.120, 1910.134 and NFPA 472 when applicable.

The Hazmat Team maintains three distinct groups:

- a. Each group will be directed by a team supervisor with Hazmat Technician trained entry personnel.
- b. Each group will maintain Hazmat Technician trained personnel to carry out substance identification, presumptive testing, evidence collection, and mitigation operations if necessary.
- c. Each group will maintain a decontamination team immediately available for decontamination operations.

3. ACTIVATION OF THE HAZMAT TEAM

The Hazmat Team shall be activated in the following circumstances:

- a. A threat of or actual release of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive material (CBRNE).
- b. An incident involving the intentional release of any other chemical or substance likely to cause harm or death.
- c. An incident requiring the need for decontamination operations.
- d. Any public event or assembly that has been determined to be vulnerable to a terrorist event.
- e. In the event an immediate inspection is necessary to analyze or mitigate a volatile situation.

- f. Anytime a command officer believes a Hazmat Team response is in the public's or the Department's best interest.
- g. Upon receiving confirmation of an illicit/clean lab located within the City of Orlando.
- h. Any other criminal act or threat involving any intentional release of a dangerous substance.
- i. When a joint response is requested by the Orlando Fire Department or other agency.
- j. During any large event within the City which may be the subject of a terrorist incident.

The HAZMAT Team may be requested by any member of the rank of lieutenant or higher or by any acting watch commander, with the approval of the High Risk Incident Commander. Activation of the team may be accomplished by contacting the Communications Division and requesting that the team respond. The Communications Division has an established system for the call out of the HAZMAT Team members and will make the appropriate contacts upon request.

The Orlando Police Department SWAT Team has specifically trained members that are capable of providing support to the Hazmat Team. Although these SWAT members are not members of the Hazmat Team and are not trained at the Hazmat Technician level, they are trained at the Operations level and are trained to use advanced Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment. These SWAT members should not be activated unless there is a specific need for SWAT operations in a hazardous environment. Any other incident outlined above should be directed to the Hazmat Team only.

Under no circumstances is the SWAT Team permitted to operate in any environment with an unknown substance or where there is a possible or confirmed release of any chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive material. SWAT Team members provide support to the Hazmat Team and shall be under the direct supervision of the Hazmat Team before commencing any SWAT operations in this type of environment, unless exigent circumstances exist.

4. RESPONSE AND COMMAND

Hazmat team members summoned on a call out will respond to the incident as directed.

Normally, no team unit will be utilized unless commanded by a team commander, supervisor, or designee. Upon arrival at an incident, the team commander will establish liaison with the watch commander for briefing and assignment.

The watch commander is in overall command of any incident unless relieved by higher authority. The HAZMAT Team Commander, supervisor, or designee shall assume overall command of specific HAZMAT Team operations as this position requires advanced training and expertise at the Hazmat Technician Level.

The HAZMAT Team is commanded by and receives orders from the ERT Team Commander, HAZMAT team commander, supervisor, or designee on the scene.

5. TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

The HAZMAT Team trains monthly. Training, scheduling, and notification are the responsibility of the HAZMAT Team Training Coordinator, team commander, or designee. Whenever possible, members will adjust normal work hours to allow for on-duty training. The team commander or Team Training Coordinator will document each training day and forward all records to the Training Section.

Special equipment, including detection, monitoring, and decontamination equipment will be issued by the Department. Only issued or approved equipment will be used. The team commander or designee shall ensure that all special equipment assigned to the HAZMAT Team is inventoried and inspected for operational readiness on a monthly basis. A report of the inventory/inspection shall be made by memorandum and maintained by the team training coordinator.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

The HAZMAT Team will conduct a selection process for new members when there is an anticipated opening. This process will be scheduled at the discretion of the team commander. The selection process will be as follows:

- a. Letter of intent from each applicant.
- b. Supervisory endorsements.
- c. Copies of last two evaluations.
- d. Discipline history.
- e. In good standing per bargaining unit contract.
- f. Successful completion of each of the following:
 1. Interview
 2. Medical Examination per OSHA 1910.120
 3. All mandatory training and certifications necessary to fulfill the Hazmat Technician level training requirements set forth by the HAZMAT Team Training Coordinator.

The selection process may be modified at the discretion of the team commander or to bring the process within the guidelines of any legal decision. The team commander shall make the final selection for the new member. (21.02a)

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