

WEEKLY SAFETY TIP – 1/23/12 –
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE SIMPLIFIED

One of the most frequently asked questions at SCM, is what kind of Hazardous Materials Emergency Response training people need. Usually that question is answered with another question – “What do you want to do/want your employees to do?”

Following is a short summary of the regulation that helps to establish some parameters as to the level of training required. Determining the level of response dictated by the following will lead to establishing the level of training required by the regulations. To see the California OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) regulations, click here to 8 CCR, Section 5192: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/5192.html>. For the Federal version, follow this link to 29 CFR, Part 1910.120:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadis.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9765

1. When a material is released, I expect my workers to immediately leave the area and to not take any action to limit the spill. They should simply leave the area, initiate an evacuation of the area, and notify the appropriate authorities.

If this is the level of response expected - the personnel should be trained and certified to the First Responder Awareness level. 8 CCR, Section 5192 (q)(6)(A) /29 CFR 1910.120 (q)(6)(i)

2. When a material is released, I expect my workers to initiate actions to limit the spill of the material without becoming contaminated with it. They should not expose themselves to any of the material at any time. If possible, I would like them to try to minimize the spill by diking the material and keeping it from getting into storm drains, by turning off valves to stop the flow of materials if it is safe to do so, and to initiate evacuation efforts.

If this is the level of response expected - the personnel should be trained and certified to the First Responder Operational level. 8 CCR, Section 5192 (q)(6)(B) /29 CFR 1910.120 (q)(6)(ii)

3. When a material is released, I expect my workers to initiate whatever actions are needed to limit the size of the spill, reduce the consequences of the spill, and clean the spill up when appropriate. These workers will be provided with the required personal protective equipment (respirators and clothing) to safely work with the materials, and to approach the point of release to control it without becoming contaminated by it.

If this is the level of response expected - the personnel should be trained and certified to either the Hazardous Materials Technician or Specialist levels. 8 CCR, Section 5192 (q)(6)(C)&(D) /29 CFR 1910.120 (q)(6)(iii)&(iv)

4. When I do have a spill of material in my facility, I expect someone from my organization to oversee the operation and the handling of that spill through its cleanup. This person would be someone on my staff who would know how to establish a system to safely manage such an incident and safely provide a command and control system for the safe handling of the incident.

If this is the level of response expected - the personnel should be trained and certified to the Command level. 8 CCR, Section 5192 (q)(6)(E) /29 CFR 1910.120 (q)(6)(v)

Remember – all of the above are required to have annual refreshers!