

*Hazardous Materials Incident Response: The First Responder's Role*, 15 min videotape, Air and Water Technologies, Somerville, NJ, 1992, \$495.

This videotape discusses incident response procedures for two of the five hazardous materials response levels: first response and operations. In it, the following are discussed:

- responsibilities of the five levels of emergency response
- response procedures for first responder awareness level (hazard identification, evacuation and notification)
- response procedures for first responder operation level (hazard recognition, use of personal protective equipment, defensive measures for control and containment, decontamination procedures)

A training guide (16-page brochure) that contains a suggested lesson plan and discussion guide, review questions and answer sign-up form and annotated script. No additional references were given although the brochure claimed they are included.

Shown below is an excerpt from their brochure:

### *TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS*

*OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response regulations {29 CFR 1910.120 (q)} establish training requirements for five categories of emergency responder. This program, Incident Response: The First Responder's Role, deals primarily with those who witness a hazardous substance release. Responders should understand their roles and the roles of others involved in incident response so that efforts will not be duplicated and well-intentioned actions do not create additional danger.*

#### *Responder Level*

##### *First responder awareness level*

*Persons who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the release. They take no further action beyond notification.*

#### *Training Requirements*

*Must be trained to demonstrate competency in the following areas:*

- *Understand what hazardous substances are and the risks associated with them in an incident*
- *Understand the potential outcome associated with an emergency created when hazardous substances are present*
- *Recognize the presence of hazardous substances in an emergency*
- *Identify hazardous substances, if possible*

- *Understand the role of the first responder awareness level in the employer's emergency plan, including site security and control and use of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook*
- *Recognize the need for additional resources and notify the communication center.*

### *First responder operations level*

*Persons who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to protect nearby persons, property, and the environment from the effects of the release. They are trained to respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposure.*

*Must receive at least eight hours of training and demonstrate competency in the following areas in addition to the awareness level requirements:*

- *Know the basic hazard and risk-assessment techniques*
- *Know how to select and use proper personal protective equipment provided to the first responder operations level*
- *Understand basic hazardous materials terminology*
- *Know how to perform basic control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available within their unit*
- *Know how to implement basic decontamination operating procedures*
- *Understand relevant standard operating procedures.*

Although the videotape does cover the basics of training for the first response awareness level and the first responder operation level, the discussion is so brief as to only constitute an introduction to the topic. For example, the latter have required at least 8 hours of training beyond the first level; clearly a 15-minute tape does not suffice — nor did AWT intend it to.

What we can say is the tape is well done and does provide an easy-to-follow introduction to the topic. But to provide adequate training information, even at the lowest level, will take much more time, discussion and classroom effort.

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*Hazardous Materials: Controlling Spills and Releases: the Hazardous Materials Technician's Role*, 15-min videotape, Air and Water Technologies, Somerville, NJ, 1992, \$495.

This video provides emergency response employees with an overview of the procedures for responding to and controlling small releases of liquid, solid or gas. Discussed in addition to response procedures are the basics of hazard identification; emergency equipment requirements, techniques for control, containment and cleanup; and decontamination, disposal, and close-out procedures.

A 20-page training guide accompanies the film. This brochure contains a suggested lesson plan, discussion guide, review questions and answers, a sign-up form, and seven single pages of supplementary information including:

- hazardous incident levels of training
- training required for hazardous material technicians and specialists
- incident response system
- simple MSDS (material safety data sheet)
- mitigation measures for hazardous substance releases
- equipment list for responding to hazardous substance releases
- emergency response operation for hazardous substance releases

The video was very well done and should, along with the first videotape in the series (*Incident Response: The First Responder's Role*) be shown to all employees who use, store or handle hazardous chemicals to make them aware of the problems and potential responses to chemical accidents. It is a good start on training but does not come close (in 15 minutes) to satisfying the time requirement of OSHA Series 1910.120 for training.

We very much appreciate including the lesson plan (shown below).

1. Introduce the topic and purpose of the training. Because this program deals with maintaining safety in emergency situations, the trainer should stress its importance in terms of the participants; personal health and safety.
2. Describe your company's emergency response plan.
3. Clearly identify participant's level of training so they know their responsibilities.
4. Show the video.
5. Identify some of the liquid, solid, and gaseous hazardous substances used at your facility.