



St. Clair County MCA
System Protocols
HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SCENE

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Hazardous Chemical Scene

Purpose: To ensure safety of EMS personnel when faced with a Hazardous Materials Incident.

Note: This policy applies to any situation, which may expose EMS personnel to known or potentially hazardous (e.g., hazardous material, chemical, biological) situations.

The medical component of the response to a hazardous incident will operate under the Incident Command System.

1. Procedure

1. Is scene secure? Are other responders on scene first? (Fire, Law)
2. Nature and identification of material?
3. Assure FD/Hazmat Team notification?
4. Do initial reports indicate any injuries or symptoms form persons exposed?
5. How many persons are exposed / symptomatic?
6. Notify Emergency room(s) as soon as possible of potential for contaminated patients by EMS or walk in.
7. Refer to MCI Protocol.

NOTE: Refer to US DOT Emergency Response Guidebook for initial information on safe distances and Identification. The above information should be communicated to responding crews.

2. In any situation in which the scene is not secured, EMS personnel ARE NOT TO ENTER THE SCENE until it has been secured by the appropriate agency.
 - A. When responding to an unsecured scene, EMS personnel will stage an appropriate distance upwind, uphill, and upstream, away from the scene to protect themselves from danger.
 - B. Don appropriate Personal Protective Equipment available. Do not contact any patients without PPE.
3. Once on the scene, if the situation changes posing an immediate life or limb threat to EMS personnel:
 - A. Attempt to safely exit scene.
 - B. Exit scene with patient, if possible.
 - C. Medical treatment protocols may be limited or deferred to assure safety of EMS personnel and/or patient.
 - D. . Notify the dispatcher of the assistance needed.
4. **Special Considerations:** For those patients, who have been contaminated in a hazardous material incident, refer to **Contaminated Patient Procedure**.