GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSE TO RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for response to hazardous materials incidents involving radioactive materials.

SCOPE:
This procedure applies to hazmat teams in the State of Florida that respond to a hazmat incident involving radioactive material. This procedure will provide guidance to the local hazmat group supervisor, incident commander and supportive staff to meet operational requirements.

PROCEDURE:

1. Hazardous materials team should request and record all pertinent information from the dispatching agency. Consider wind direction and relevant environmental conditions to determine approach route.

2. Upon arrival, the Hazmat Group Supervisor shall meet with the I.C. and conduct an incident briefing. Initiate proper documentation for FEMA, DOH or AHJ records compliance.

3. Confirm initial radiation readings by first responders, collect any documentation relevant to the radioactive material and consider any additional life safety rescues, if applicable.

   Personal Radiation Protection (EPA Guidance on Dose Limits for Emergency personnel) are:

Dose Limit (Rem)	*Activity*
5	All
10	Protecting valuable property
25	Life saving or protection of large populations
>25	Life saving or protection of large populations only on a voluntary basis to persons fully aware of the risk involved.

4. Validate appropriate isolation distances. Establish a 360 degree perimeter of 2 mR/Hr above background, or less.

5. Select appropriate PPE to include SCBA.

6. Determine if any victims/rescuers are contaminated and isolate as necessary. Notify the appropriate hospitals of a radiological incident and report contaminated status of patients, if applicable.

7. Perform appropriate decontamination, i.e. removal of clothing, dry/wet decon. Monitor for contamination spread.

8. If containment of radiological material is indicated, perform if appropriate.

9. Make the appropriate notifications to state and/or local agencies.

10. Transfer responsibility over to the appropriate agency.

11. Ensure proper documentation of radiological exposure information for all rescuers. Ensure response personnel medical monitoring is initiated.

1. Approach the scene from upwind, position apparatus 500 feet from the scene or whatever is practical.

2. Don full protective gear including SCBA and personal dosimeters. Designate individual to begin exposure sheet to monitor each person's exposure rate. Wear surgical type disposable gloves.

3. Obtain as much information about radiological source as possible before approaching it. Use placards, labels and other sources of information.

4. First determine the presence of radiation in the area. Establish perimeter using banner guard at the 1 mR/hr level for a full 360 degrees. Use exposure table.

5. Make any immediate rescue of victims as required. Consider all personnel that were in radiation zone to be contaminated until monitoring proves otherwise, if radioactive material was released or spilled. (Have Medcom advise hospital to prepare for possible radioactive contaminated patients).

6. Remember we do not have the proper monitors or training to measure for contamination of individuals. Establish an isolation area until proper authorities can determine degree of contamination and supervise the decontamination procedure.

7. Verify that the proper authorities have been notified through Dispatch. *See 2.11.13.6

8. The maximum exposure for personnel is 25 rems for lifesaving activities. **NO ONE SHOULD ENTER THE RADIATION AREA EXCEPT TO MAKE A RESCUE.**

Radioactive I	None
Radioactive II	1 mR/hr
Radioactive III	10 mR/hr
Sole Use Vehicle	At the vehicle surface
Radioactive LSA	200 mR/hr

TO AVIOD UNNECESSARY RADIATION EXPOSURE RELY ON TWO KEY ELEMENTS:

1. **TIME** – The rule is: Keep contact time with packages short. Handle packages of radioactive material without delay when moving them. DO not do time-consuming tasks near packages.