

# WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER



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CHIEF OF POLICE

<b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2008	<b>Rescinds:</b> B-210 (March 2004) <b>Amends:</b>	<b>Number:</b> B-210
<b>Subject:</b> Hazardous Materials		<b>Re-evaluation Date:</b> August, 2011
<b>Distribution:</b> ALL PERSONNEL	<b>Related CALEA Standards:</b>	

This order consists of the following numbered sections:

1. Policy
2. Definitions
3. Procedure

## 1. POLICY

It is the policy of the Watertown Police Department to provide its personnel with training to help recognize and avoid potential hazardous materials. Police officers may be the first responders to an incident. As first responders at the awareness level, officers will be expected to recognize the presence of hazardous materials, protect themselves, call for trained personnel, and secure the area. This could be hazardous materials in a factory setting, transportation accidents resulting in roadway or railway spills, clandestine drug labs, possible terrorist action, and any other situations where dangerous, hazardous substances may be located or have caused a contaminated environment.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

- a. Clandestine Labs: An illicit operation consisting of a sufficient combination of apparatus and chemicals that either has been or could be used in the manufacture of synthesis of controlled substances. The definition specifically excludes lsd, water, or other dosage unit producing operations, heroin, or cocaine, (cutting mill), dilution operation, and crack/cocaine freebase operations, each of which is a unique and significant law enforcement problem, but not a clandestine lab for the purpose of this definition.

## 3. PROCEDURE

- a. Seizing and Processing of Clandestine Labs
  - i. Seizing and processing clandestine labs by their nature poses many and varied hazards for officers. In addition to the usual hazards faced by law enforcement officers, those involved in handling these labs also face the possibility of exposure to very hazardous materials. To minimize these risks, seizing and processing of these labs shall be done in accordance with safety procedures and only by qualified personnel.
  - ii. Unless emergency conditions exist, the Chief of Police and the Investigative Services Captain will be advised prior to any raid on a suspected clandestine lab. In his absence, the next in the chain of command shall be notified.
  - iii. When developing a raid safety plan for the seizure of a suspected lab, an investigator will take into account the department policy regarding tactical operations and include additional consideration regarding emergency medical units, fire department, other law enforcement agencies and qualified personnel for the handling of these potentially dangerous materials.
  - iv. The processing of a seized clandestine lab site will be conducted by qualified personnel to insure the proper collection and handling of any evidentiary material and dangerous waste materials.
  - v. All hazardous materials seized by qualified personnel will be disposed of in accordance with state and federal law.
  - vi. Training with Fire Department Hazardous Materials personnel is highly advised as these people deal with dangerous chemicals, explosions, and fires. They are available to assist in decontamination of persons if necessary.

- vii. A clandestine lab operations team exists on the state level. This department will attempt to have a member of the Watertown Police Department as part of this team. This team can be activated for search warrants and drug investigating purposes. The team is not a decontamination unit.
- b. Hazardous Spills
- i. Watertown Police Department personnel are responsible to investigate accidents pertaining to roadways, railways, factory settings, and other contaminations resulting from hazardous materials discharges.
  - ii. Survey the incident from a safe location (upwind, uphill, or upstream) to obtain information for emergency responders. Information to be gathered should include:
    - 1. Product name ó identity.
    - 2. Labels, place cards, other markings.
    - 3. Container shapes.
    - 4. Volume of spill.
  - iii. Communications will notify supervisor, emergency management, and fire department hazardous waste team. The following information should be gathered and provided to emergency management and fire department:
    - 1. Location of incident.
      - a. Indoors.
      - b. Outdoors.
    - 2. Type of incident.
      - a. Fire.
      - b. Spill.
      - c. Chemical exposure.
      - d. Biological agent.
    - 3. Materials or chemicals involved.
    - 4. Any person(s) exposed or injured.
    - 5. Environment affected.
      - a. Air.
      - b. Land.
      - c. Water.
      - d. Building.
    - 6. Action being taken.
  - iv. Collect hazard information from Emergency Response Guidebook.
    - 1. Each police vehicle will have a guidebook.
  - v. Initiate appropriate protective and safety actions.
    - 1. Isolate and secure the area to provide for safety of persons not involved with the decontamination efforts.
  - vi. Assume command of scene until relieved by a designated incident commander.
    - 1. Establish a command post near to scene of incident. Command post should be at a safe distance upwind, uphill, or upstream from incident.
- c. Police Response to Terrorist Acts
- i. Terrorist actions will be impacted more with public health authorities. Police response will be in a supporting role with reference to a biological agent incident or chemical weapons.
    - 1. Initial response of police.
      - a. Be aware of possible secondary devices to prevent additional casualties.
      - b. Initiate personal decontamination procedure if you believe you have become contaminated.
        - i. Withdraw from area where contamination occurred.
        - ii. If contamination is visible, scrape off with knife, stick, etc.
        - iii. Soak up agent with detergents, flour, dirt, etc.
        - iv. After removing from skin remove clothing.
        - v. Chemical removal, use bleach and soapy water.
      - c. Be aware of victims. Contain them in area to avoid further contamination. Maintain inner and outer perimeter of crime scene protocol.
      - d. Maintain clear routes for emergency vehicles and personnel.

2. Hazardous materials are used as chemical weapons and police response to a chemical warfare weapon will be as noted in procedure b.
  3. Biological agents such as bacterial, viral, rickettsiae, and toxins are the most likely forms of biological weapons of mass destruction to be used in a terrorist action. These are used to infect persons by the following processes:
    - a. Inhalation.
    - b. Eye or skin contact.
    - c. Ingestion.
    - d. Injection.
    - e. Vector (insect bites).
- d. Protect the Incident Scene
- i. Any hazardous materials incident should be considered as a crime scene and evidence should be preserved whether accidental or intentional. Preservation of scene may assist in developing safeguards to prevent future problems. Identify negligent or guilty parties for aid in prosecuting in court.

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