

Category 5

Criterion 5H: Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Program

The agency operates an adequate, effective, efficient and safe hazardous materials program directed toward protecting the community from the hazards associated with the uncontrolled releases of hazardous and toxic materials. If identified risks are outside the scope of the agency's capabilities, Category 10 performance indicators should address the agency's ability to receive aid from partners in those areas. The agency must conduct a thorough risk assessment as part of activities in Category 2 to determine the need for specific hazardous materials program and support the overall risk reduction strategy. Agencies that only provide first responder services must also complete this criterion.

Summary:

The Meridian Fire Department operates an adequate, effective and safe hazardous materials program directed toward protecting the community from hazards associated with the uncontrolled releases of hazardous and toxic materials. All MFD firefighters are trained to the operations level defined by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) *472: Standard of Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*, and are able to mitigate Level I hazmat incidents. These include basic hazardous materials emergencies such as small flammable liquid spills, carbon monoxide alarms, small to moderate diameter natural gas line breaks and small pressurized vessel leaks. For hazmat emergencies that extend beyond the capabilities of MFD, assistance from an outside agency is required. Two state regional hazmat teams are located within 30 minutes of Meridian, one at Boise Fire Department and one at Caldwell Fire Department. These neighboring agencies staff hazmat teams with technician level skills and equipment that are available to respond around the region 24/7. Regional hazmat teams are requested through dispatch according to the Ada County Hazmat Response Plan. Equipment for Level I hazmat emergencies, including gas monitors, are carried on all department engines and trucks. Hazmat training is conducted in the academy, with annual refresher training for all line personnel.

Performance Indicators:

CC 5H.1 Given the agency’s community risk assessment/standards of cover and emergency performance statements, the agency meets its staffing, response time, station(s), apparatus and equipment deployment objectives for each type and magnitude of hazardous materials incident(s).

Description

The department responds to all hazardous materials emergencies in the City of Meridian. All firefighters are trained and equipped at the operations level defined by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472: *Standard of Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*, and able to mitigate Level I hazmat incidents. For incidents that extend beyond the scope of operations level responders, The department can request the Boise Fire Department and Caldwell Fire Department’s regional hazardous materials teams through the Ada County Hazmat Response Plan. Department operations level responders are still able to establish command, initiate a hazmat call with the state communications agency, identify substances if marked by placards, establish hot, warm, and cold zones, provide evacuation, and set up decontamination stations.

Appraisal

The has been able to successfully mitigate all Level I hazardous materials emergencies in the Meridian Fire response area. In 2022 for moderate risk hazardous materials calls the department’s total response time for a first unit on scene was 11 minutes and 10 seconds in the 90th percentile. The total response time for an effective response force for a moderate risk hazmat call was 12 minutes and 59 seconds in 2022. There were no high-risk hazmat calls in Meridian’s response district which required an ERF in which Boise or Caldwell’s Hazmat teams responded.

Plan

MFD will continue to train and equip all personnel to the operations level, and outfit all engines and ladders with appropriate hazmat equipment. An effort to establish annual

training with Boise and Caldwell Fire Departments will be made to increase MFDs ability to better set up larger hazmat emergency scenes prior to their arrival, and to better assist with operations. The department will continue to monitor the hazmat risk in its response district given the railway and freeways where hazardous materials may be transported.

References

- NFPA 472: *Standard of Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*
- Ada County Hazmat Response Plan
- Community Risk Assessment/Standards of Cover, pg. 113-114, 127

5H.2 The agency complies with all aspects of applicable hazardous material regulations such as annual refresher training, medical monitoring of response personnel, annual physical examinations as applicable per standards, and exposure record retention.

Description

Idaho does not have a federally approved occupational safety and health regulatory program for the state. Idaho has adopted safety and health rules for public sector workplaces that are substantially less stringent than federal rules. There are no state safety and health rules for hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER). Meridian Fire Department participates in the Ada County Hazmat Response Plan (ACHRP) and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) Idaho HazMat/WMD Incident Command and Response Support Plan which outlines training and regulation requirements. Per the ACHRP, all line personnel are trained to an operations level based on 29 CFR 1910.120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, and must have completed National Incident Management System (NIMS) incident command system (ICS) courses 100, 200, and 700. All suppression personnel are required to complete 6 hours of hazardous materials refresher training annually. Suppression personnel also complete biennial physicals as required per the Collective Labor Agreement between City of Meridian and Meridian Firefighters IAFF Local 4627.

Appraisal

The department added 30 new firefighters to its personnel in the last year, all of whom either had hazmat operations training as laterals or went through a 40-hour course in the department's academy. All line personnel have completed at least 6 hours of annual refresher training. All line personnel have completed their annual physicals. The department's annual refresher training has primarily been computer-based and members have not had a chance recently to train with a regional team or do any hands-on scenarios.

Plan

The department will work with Boise or Caldwell Fire Department's hazmat response teams to develop a regular hands-on training opportunity for its members in addition to its annual hourly requirements. The department will continue to evaluate its hazmat response

needs as the city grows, especially given the amount of hazardous materials transported via rail or highway that runs through the Meridian response district.

References

- Ada County Hazmat Response Plan, pg. 6
- Idaho HazMat/WMD Incident Command and Response Support Plan, Tab 18-1 through Tab 18-3
- Collective Labor Agreement between City of Meridian and Meridian Firefighters IAFF Local 4627, Article 26, pg. 28-29
- MFD 2023 ISO Training Tracker Screenshot
- MFD Entry Level Academy Schedule, pg. 30-31

CC 5H.3 The agency conducts a formal and documented program appraisal, at least annually, to determine the impacts, outcomes, and effectiveness of the program, and to measure its performance toward meeting the agency's goals and objectives.

Description

Following the accreditation model, the department has a formal and documented program appraisal process outlined in Administrative Standard Operating Guidelines (ASOGs). Appraisals are conducted annually following the fiscal year model, and must be completed prior to budget requests being submitted. The deputy chief of operations is responsible for the completion of the hazmat response program appraisal. The department responds to all hazardous materials incidents in its community with operations level personnel on all apparatus. All apparatus are equipped with 4-gas monitors and basic gross decontamination equipment. Regional hazmat teams from Caldwell or Boise Fire respond to high-risk hazmat calls as per the Ada County Hazmat Response Plan. To evaluate program performance, the department measures budgetary information, training hour compliance, and response times.

Appraisal

All MFD firefighters have been trained at the operations level per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472: *Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*. In 2022 the majority of the department's hazardous response calls were to small flammable liquid spills, carbon monoxide alarms, small to moderate diameter natural gas line breaks and small pressurized vessel leaks. These are defined as Level I hazmat incidents. While there were several calls in 2022 that were dispatched as a Hazardous Materials incident with the potential for a technician level response, all were able to be mitigated by first arriving units and no hazmat team response was needed. Total response time for a fire unit on scene to a moderate risk hazmat event was 11 minutes and 10 seconds. Total response time for the effective response force (ERF) for a moderate risk hazmat event was 12 minutes and 59 seconds. All personnel met their training requirements for hazmat, however no hands-on training was conducted.

Plan

An annual, formal, and documented hazardous materials program appraisal is to be completed by, or at the direction of, the deputy chief of operations. The department will consider establishing a hazardous material emergency committee (possibly as part of the special teams committee) to evaluate needs of the community and department for personnel, training, equipment, and placement. The department will work with the regional hazmat response teams in Boise and Caldwell to develop a regular hands-on training for its operations level personnel to better assist with initial operations.

References

- Annual Program Appraisal 5H.3 Hazmat
- ASOG – Program Appraisals