Westchester County

Department of Emergency Services

Special Operations

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM
60
CONTROL
WESTCHESTER COUNTY · N.Y.

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM

Team Leader - Pete Pitocco

- Fire Service
- Chief of Special Operations since ’06
- Firefighter since ’66
- Line Officer for 11Yrs.
- NYS Fire Instructor
- Fire Co. Training Officer
- Dept. Training Officer
- Deputy Fire Coord. for 22 Yrs.
- Vol. Chief Dispatcher ’80
- Haz-Mat Team since ’86
  - Team Leader since ’97
- NYS Code Official since ‘92

- Professional - Retired
- Site Safety Eng. – 17 yrs, IBM
- Emerg. Response Coord.
  - Fire Brigade
  - Haz Mat Team
  - Confined Space Rescue
- OSHA Training Instructor
  - Electrical Safety
  - LO/TO
  - Confined Space
  - Construction Safety
- Construction Plan Reviews
- Life Safety Code inspector

Team Leadership

- Vinny Coulehan
  - Program Manager Safety and Related Services
- Jeff Mead
  - Director of Emergency Support Services
- J.T. Flick
  - Regional Resource Center Coordinator
- Richard Tom
  - PhD Chemist, local OSHA office
- Gerry McIlvain
  - Captain SFD / DFFD

Team Membership

- 52 members
- Of those 43 are Haz Mat Technicians
  - 10 have been with the team from the beginning
  - 13 work in chemical related industry
  - 3 are Chemists (including 1 PhD)
  - 1 Radiation specialist
  - 7 EMT's
  - 2 Medics
  - 1 Medical Doctor
  - 3 Law Enforcement Agents
  - 1 Lawyers

History of the Team

- Founded in 1986
  - thru the cooperation of the then
    Office of Emergency Management
    and Office of Fire Services
- The team received an initial $42,000 for equipment and a used county vehicle to respond with

History of the Team

20 + years of Service

Original Bomb Truck Used for 4 years as our response vehicle

History of the Team
20 + years of Service

- Became official in 1987
  - Came under the direction of the then Fire Coordinator

- The original team was restricted to 20 volunteer members from the career and volunteer fire service, career and volunteer EMS, and industry specialists

History of the Team
20 + years of Service

- Received our next response vehicle in 1990

History of the Team
20 + years of Service

- Delivery of a new state of the art Response Vehicle in October 2007

Team Charter

- "The purpose of the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services Hazardous Materials Team is to mitigate hazardous materials incidents within the county though the Mutual Plan."
- The Team provides expertise and equipment to mitigate a hazardous materials incident
- It assumes command of the Haz Mat Sector, and reports to and functions through the local Incident Commander (IC) using the ICS

Protocol

When responding to a Hazardous Material Spill, the Haz Mat Team works very closely with the Environmental Division of Westchester County Department of Health.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM

Response in Mohegan July 2008

Responsibilities
Haz Mat Team

- The Team is responsible for the mitigation and rendering the scene safe for personnel and the environment.
- We Will:
  - Identify the problem
  - Determine the potential consequences of the incident
  - Determine possible courses of action for mitigation
  - Relay this information to the IC

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM

Night Operations - Mohegan July 2008

Responsibilities
Health Department

- It is the Health Department's responsibility to:
  - Assure the health and well being of the affected public
  - Assist in monitoring
  - Advise the IC of sheltering or evacuation of area
  - Arrange and assure proper clean up
  - Assure compliance with all Environmental and Health laws
  - Act as an agent for NYS DEC
  - Issue citations when necessary

Training

- Members are certified to OSHA/NFPA Response levels
  - OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 (q)
  - NFPA 472
- Drills covering required competencies training
- WMD training with FDNY personnel
- Community Drills with Local
  - Fire Departments and EMS agencies
  - Other related agencies
  - Chemical Manufacturers and users

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM

Drill at NYC DEP Croton Gate House - Yorktown 2009

Advance Training

- Advance training thru industrial Hazmat classes
- Seminar participation
- Guest presentations
- Manufacturers and industry interaction
  - development
  - testing
  - documentation

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM

Decon Drill - Valhalla 2008

2008 – 2012
Response Statistics

- 49+ Active Members from 27 Departments
- Emergency Responses for year:

2008	91
2009	74
2010	76
2011	52
2012	58

2008 – 2012
Training Statistics

- Training man/hours for year :

2008	408
2009	412
2010	486
2011	421
2012	413

- Community drills for year :

2008	3
2009	2
2010	4
2011	4
2012	3