	Abilene Police Department Operating Procedures		
	Subject: <i>Bio Hazard</i>	Issued: 10/19/2011	TBP: 8.12

Policy (TBP 8.12)

The Department shall cooperate with the Abilene Fire Department in handling incidents involving hazardous materials.

Initial Response

Upon being informed of an incident in which hazardous materials might be involved, a supervisor shall be notified immediately. Patrol officers shall be dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival at the scene, officers shall immediately notify the Communications Center of any substance leaking, spilling or in any way endangering safety. Upon receiving notification the fire department shall be requested to respond immediately.

The number of officers dispatched shall be kept to a minimum, thus reducing the number of contaminated persons. Officers not assigned to the situation should not approach closer than six blocks to prevent possible contamination unless otherwise informed by the fire department or a hazardous response team member.

All involved officers should:

1. Note wind direction, if possible, and approach the scene from upwind.
2. Avoid all smoke, fumes, liquids, powders, etc., which may contaminate persons or vehicles.
3. Observe any spillage, fire, leakage, fuming or damage to containers. They should also note any placarding that indicates hazardous material and pass the information onto the fire department.
4. Officers should not walk or drive through any spilled material and they shall not smoke. Flares should not be used at the scene.


Officers should maintain a safe distance and stop all incoming and outgoing pedestrian and vehicular traffic if possible.

The fire department shall be provided all pertinent information upon arrival and shall determine the hazardous substance(s) involved and the degree of danger.

Notifications

If the fire department confirms a hazardous material is involved in an incident, the on-duty patrol supervisor shall contact the Police Administration.

The fire department will be responsible for determining the extent and nature of the hazard, and for determining the termination of the hazard.

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The fire department will establish a decontamination line. All police personnel will remain outside the line unless they are contaminated. Officers will establish and maintain an outer perimeter line the contamination line as determined by fire department personnel. Only authorized personnel should be allowed inside the outer perimeter.

Fire and police command personnel shall determine whether the evacuation of residents is necessary and the area and extent of such an evacuation.

Termination

Prior to termination, the Department will be responsible for ensuring all traffic routes have been returned to normal.