Clearheart Construction Co., Inc.

Hazardous Waste Operations / Emergency Response

HAZWOPER

Hazardous waste operations and emergency response. 1910.120

HAZWOPER is an acronym for: Hazardous waste operations and emergency response.

When our employees are working at a facility that has the potential for an emergency to occur due to an uncontrolled release of hazardous substances or hazardous raw materials they fall under the provisions of 29 CFR 1910.120 paragraph (q), which addresses emergency response to hazardous substance releases without regard to location.

The facility at which we are working will have developed and emergency response plan to handle anticipated emergencies prior to the commencement of emergency response operations. This plan will be in writing and available for inspection by employees, their representatives and OSHA. Within the emergency response plan, that employer will address:

1. Pre-emergency planning and coordination with outside parties..
2. Personnel roles, lines of authority, training, and communication.
3. Emergency recognition and prevention.
4. Safe distances and places of refuge.
5. Site security and control.
6. Evacuation routes and procedures.
7. Decontamination.
8. Emergency medical treatment and first aid.
9. Emergency alerting and response procedures.
10. Critique of response and follow-up.
11. PPE and emergency equipment.

Our employees will receive training prior to being allowed to participate in actual emergency operations based on the duties and function to be performed by each responder of an emergency response organization.

Training will be as follows:

a. First responder awareness level.

These are individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities

of the release. They would take no further action beyond notifying the authorities of the release.

First responders at the awareness level shall have sufficient training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas:

1. An understanding of what hazardous substances are, and the risks associated with them in an incident.
2. An understanding of the potential outcomes associated with an emergency created when hazardous substances are present.
3. The ability to recognize the presence of hazardous substances in an emergency.
4. The ability to identify the hazardous substances, if possible.
5. An understanding of the role of the first responder awareness individual in the employer's emergency response plan including site security and control and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook.
6. The ability to realize the need for additional resources, and to make appropriate notifications to the communication center.

b. First responder operations level.

First responders at the operations level are individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release. They are trained to respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposures.

First responders at the operational level shall have received at least eight hours of training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas in addition to those listed for the awareness level and this must be certified:

1. Knowledge of the basic hazard and risk assessment techniques.
2. Know how to select and use proper personal protective equipment provided to the first responder operational level.
2. An understanding of basic hazardous materials terms.

3. Know how to perform basic control, containment and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available with their unit.
4. Know how to implement basic decontamination procedures.
5. An understanding of the relevant standard operating procedures and termination procedures.

c. Hazardous materials technician.

Hazardous materials technicians are individuals who respond to releases or potential releases for the purpose of stopping the release. They assume a more aggressive role than a first responder at the operations level in that they will approach the point of release in order to plug, patch or otherwise stop the release of a hazardous substance.

Hazardous materials technicians shall have received at least 24 hours of training equal to the first responder operations level and in addition have competency in the following areas which must be certified:

1. Know how to implement the employer's emergency response plan.
2. Know the classification, identification and verification of known and unknown materials by using field survey instruments and equipment.
3. Be able to function within an assigned role in the Incident Command System.
4. Know how to select and use proper specialized chemical personal protective equipment provided to the hazardous materials technician.
5. Understand hazard and risk assessment techniques.
6. Be able to perform advance control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available with the unit.
7. Understand and implement decontamination procedures.
8. Understand termination procedures.
9. Understand basic chemical and toxicological terminology and behavior.

d. Hazardous materials specialist.

Hazardous materials specialists are individuals who respond with and provide support to hazardous materials technicians. Their duties parallel those of the hazardous materials technician, however, those duties require a more directed or specific knowledge of the various substances they may be called upon to contain.

The hazardous materials specialist would also act as the site liaison with Federal, state, local and other government authorities in regards to site activities. Hazardous materials specialists shall have received at least 24 hours of training equal to the technician level and in addition have competency in the following areas which must be certified:

1. Know how to implement the local emergency response plan.
2. Understand classification, identification and verification of known and unknown materials by using advanced survey instruments and equipment.
3. Know the state emergency response plan.
4. Be able to select and use proper specialized chemical personal protective equipment provided to the hazardous materials specialist.
5. Understand in-depth hazard and risk techniques.
6. Be able to perform specialized control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available.
7. Be able to determine and implement decontamination procedures.
8. Have the ability to develop a site safety and control plan.
9. Understand chemical, radiological and toxicological terminology and behavior.

e. On scene incident commander.

Incident commanders, who will assume control of the incident scene beyond the first responder awareness level, shall receive at least 24 hours of training equal to the first responder operations level and in addition have competency in the following areas which must be certified:

1. Know and be able to implement the employer's incident command system.

2. Know how to implement the employer's emergency response plan.
3. Know and understand the hazards and risks associated with employees working in chemical protective clothing.
4. Know how to implement the local emergency response plan.
5. Know of the state emergency response plan and of the Federal Regional Response Team.
6. Know and understand the importance of decontamination procedures.

Training: The qualifications for training persons in the above subjects include:

a. having satisfactorily completed a training course for teaching the subjects they are expected to teach, such as the courses offered by the U.S. National Fire Academy, or,
b. having the training and/or academic credentials and instructional experience necessary to demonstrate competent instructional skills and a good command of the subject matter of the courses they are to teach.

Refresher training: All employees who have received qualification on the above must either:

1. also receive annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies, or
2. demonstrate competency in those areas at least yearly.

A statement will be made of the training or competency and the employer shall keep a record of the methodology used to demonstrate competency on file.

Procedures for handling emergency response.

In the event an actual emergency response occurs, the senior emergency response official responding to the emergency will be designated the individual in charge of a site-specific Incident Command System (ICS). All emergency responders and their communications will be coordinated and controlled through the individual in charge of the ICS assisted by the senior official present for each employer.

Note: The "senior official" at an emergency response is the most senior official on the site who has the responsibility for controlling the operations at the site. Initially it is the senior officer on the first-due piece of responding emergency apparatus to arrive on the incident scene. As more senior officers arrive (i.e. , battalion chief, fire chief, state law enforcement official, site coordinator, etc.) the position is passed up the line of authority which has been previously established.

The duties of the individual in charge of the ICS would include identifying all hazardous substances or conditions present and addressing site analysis, use of engineering controls, maximum exposure limits, hazardous substance handling procedures, and use of any new technologies.

Chemical protective clothing**.**

If the individual in charge of the ICS, designated safety director, or designated HAZMAT team members may decide that chemical protective clothing is required. Totally-encapsulating chemical protective suits are used in conditions where skin absorption of a hazardous substance may result in a substantial possibility of immediate death, immediate serious illness or injury, or impair the ability to escape.

Totally-encapsulating suits requirements:

1. must protect employees from the particular hazards which are identified during site characterization and analysis.
2. must be capable of maintaining positive air pressure.
3. must be capable of preventing inward test gas leakage of more than 0.5 percent.

Medical surveillance and consultation.

Any emergency response employees who exhibit signs or symptoms which may have resulted from exposure to hazardous substances during the course of an emergency incident either immediately or subsequently, shall be provided with medical consultation as noted below:

a. As soon as possible following the emergency incident or development of signs or symptoms,
b. At additional times if the examining physician determines that follow-up examinations or consultations are medically necessary.

All medical procedures will be performed by, or under the supervision of a licensed physician and will be provided at no cost, without loss of pay at a reasonable time and place.

Post-emergency response operations.

Upon completion of the emergency response, if it is determined that it is necessary to remove hazardous substances, health hazards and materials contaminated with them (such as contaminated soil or other elements of the natural environment) from the site of the incident, the facility at which the incident occurred may or may not request our employees assist in conducting the clean-up.

Our employees will have completed the training requirements of the following: 29 CFR 1910.38, 1910.134, 1910.1200, and other appropriate safety and health training made necessary by the tasks they are expected to perform.