



DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

June, 2026

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DECON

The subject of Decontamination we reviewed in February 2024 and then in January 2025, the newsletter was focused on cold weather decon. A good portion of this newsletter is taken from the February 2024 issue with some additions.

Yes, I realize that we review this particular subject a lot but decontamination is such an important part of Haz-Mat response we need to. Decontamination is vital to our safety as well as those we serve and protect.

Why Decontaminate?

- To prevent the spread of the material. "To keep it in the HOT ZONE"
- To reduce the effects of the material on victims and eliminate the effects on responders. $DOSE = \text{concentration} \times \text{exposure time}$
- To allow equipment to be returned to service

Types of DECON:

- GROSS DECON – you and your crew using water, or maybe soap & water.
- MASS DECON - gross DECON for large numbers of victims.
- TECHNICAL DECON - what the Haz-Mat Team entrants do prior Chemical Protective Clothing removal. This type of decon may also include the use of special solutions to decontaminate pieces of equipment.
- EMERGENCY DECON – deconning contaminated victims immediately or a term "we" use for decon of entry team

members who have an "in suit" emergency.

The basic principles of chemical contamination:

- 80% of contaminants will remain on outer clothing.
- Remove outer clothing. Leave clothing at the scene.
- Water is **good**
- Soap and water is **better**
- **Do not** wait on soap
- Consider the runoff, it is not necessary to contain the runoff in a life-saving situation
- In cold weather decon we may need to set up inside buildings. Walking people through water spray at zero degrees will cause rapid hypothermia

Biological agents may not present the same urgency as chemical contamination. Each of these situations will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, usually with input from the local Health Department. Corrosives will eat at skin (acute) whereas Biologicals can take several days to weeks before symptoms present (chronic). Once again consult with the Health Department.

The effectiveness of Decon operations must be evaluated using detection and monitoring devices. If victims are treated and transported to medical facilities prior to being **properly** decontaminated EMS personnel and vehicles will become contaminated. The *GMVEMSC Hazardous Materials Protocol* states: **Do not**

transport a patient until gross decontamination is completed.

Always contact the receiving Hospital as soon as possible. They must be informed prior to your arrival.

Be prepared to advise them of the following:

- Name of the chemical
- Extent of contamination
- The type and extent of Decon performed at the scene

Attempt to get an **SDS on the chemical** for the receiving facility. When in doubt Decontaminate. **Dilution is the solution to pollution.**

There are other forms of decon available to us:

Dry – using brushes, scrapers, or wipes/towels to remove product from the victim.

Positive Pressure Ventilation – the use of fans to increase the evaporation rate of a product in its gaseous form. Example would be Anhydrous Ammonia in turn out gear. Patience is the key here. Standing in front of a PPV fan for 2 mins is not going to remove the product adequately, 5 mins or more will be needed to ensure the product has evaporated sufficiently. A meter with the appropriate sensor in it can confirm decon was successful.

Electro Static – this is a form of decon where the decon liquid is atomized into tiny droplets and given a strong electrical charge that is attracted to the target chemical. It bonds with that chemical and removes it. Dayton Regional Hazmat does not use this form of decon but it is out there.

These are general guidelines; refer to other sources for more detailed info, or call the Coordinator for additional guidance.

Training – Training for this month is **Decon Review. June 15, 16, & 17** – 0900 - 1200 hours. **Dayton Training Center Task Force Building**

July 13, 14, & 15 – 0900 - 1200 hours
DFD TC @ Task Force Bldg
Air Monitoring with Bad Day Training

August 17, 18, & 19 – 0900 - 1200 hours
Location - TBD
GCLEPC Exercise Month

September 14, 15, & 16 - 0900-1600 hours
DFD TC @ Task Force Bldg
Railroad with Jon Simpson

October 5, 6, & 7 – 0900 - 1200 hours
DFD TC @ Task Force Bldg
Top Ten Scenarios

November 16, 17, & 18—0900-1200 hours
Location – Dayton Police Academy
Bomb Squad Awareness

December - No Training