



DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

February, 2024

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DECON

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. "Keep it in the HOT ZONE"
- To reduce the effects of the material on victims and eliminate the effects to responders
DOSE = concentration x 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 does prior to suit removal from entrants in Chemical Protective Clothing. 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 member with an "in suit" emergency.

Basic Principals 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.

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 DECON

Dilution is the solution to pollution. 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 **February 12, 13, & 14 at 0900 - 1200hrs at the Task Force Building at Dayton Fire Department Training Center.**

We will have **Dr. James Augustine**, presenting on **Medical Response to Hazmat**. Dr Augustine does an excellent presentation on how to respond properly to medic calls that were caused by a hazmat event.

2024 Training Dates

March – 18-19-20 – Scott Tippen

April – 15-16-17 – Hazmat Unit Inventory

May – 13-14-15 – LEPC Exer

June – 10-11-12 – Hazmat IQ

July – 15-16-17 - Scenarios

August – 12-13-14 – GCLEPC Exer

September – 16-17-18 – Railroad

October – 21-22-23 – TBD

November – 18-19-20 – OEPA

December - No training