

## Hazardous Materials Assistance Program

### I. Purpose:

This Guidance will establish a framework by which a State hazardous materials resource would support the needs of Rural Fire Protection Districts in the detection, surveillance and containment of a hazardous materials event under the Authorities of the Governor at the time of a state disaster declaration.

### II. Authority:

- A. Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-829.52 to 81-829.55 authorizes the Adjutant General, upon authorization by the Governor, to establish a State Emergency Response Team (SERT) to; reinforce emergency management organization in disaster stricken areas or in anticipation of a disaster, provide technical expertise or specialized skills to a disaster area, and ensure the public is served in a timely and efficient manner.
- B. 81-829.42 (6) If aerial fire suppression or hazardous material response is immediately required, the Adjutant General may make expenditures of up to twenty-five thousand dollars per event without a state of emergency proclamation issued by the Governor.

### III. Hazardous Materials Response:

#### A. Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT)

- 1. The NHIT is made up of personnel from the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP), Nebraska State Fire Marshal (NSFM) and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ).
- 2. Their purpose is to assist local fire protection districts with technical assistance in the detection and surveillance of a hazardous material spill. They can provide an analysis of the scene, and in collaboration with on-scene agencies, advise the Incident Commander on the need to request additional resources. When sufficiently staffed and equipped, the NHIT enter the hot zone to mitigate the incident.
- 3. To request members of the NHIT call the Nebraska State Patrol who will dispatch the closest members of the team.
- 4. Members of the NHIT are employees of their respective State agencies and any response by the NHIT is the responsibility of the responding agency.

**B. State Emergency Response Team (SERT) under 81-829.42(6)**

1. Upon order of the Governor the Adjutant General is authorized to establish a SERT. NEMA has signed local agreements with ten (10) hazmat teams in anticipation of the need for such a response. This shall not take precedence over or deter from any mutual aid agreements already in place at the local level between fire departments.
2. To request a SERT call the closest Hazardous Materials (hazmat) team. It is the responsibility of the local Incident Commander or their designee to:
  - a. Call NEMA to advise them of the request for the team.
  - b. Call the local Emergency Manager, advise them of the incident, that a hazmat team has been requested and request the local EM complete and send an Incident Status Report (ISR) to NEMA.
  - c. When the hazmat team arrives on scene using the check-in/checkout sheet (Attachment 1) recording the time of arrival, personnel by name, and vehicles by type.
  - d. Request an approximate cost per hour from the hazmat team leader and keep track of the dollars obligated. Any costs over twenty-five thousand (25,000) dollars will be the responsibility of the local jurisdiction unless (all three conditions must be met):
    - i. NEMA has been advised of the need for the hazmat team to remain at the scene.
    - ii. A local state of emergency has been declared (Attachment 3 of Basic Plan), and
    - iii. The Governor's Office has approved continued funding of the response by issuing a Proclamation of a State Declaration of Emergency.

**Be aware that a request for a State Declaration to continue the use of the Governor's Emergency Fund for the HazMat team response is not guaranteed even when conditions i. and ii. above are met.**

- e. When the hazmat team demobilizes:
  - i. Complete the daily check-out portion of the check in/checkout form including the time of their demobilization.

- ii. If the hazmat team demobilization is phased, record the time of departure of each element including personnel names and vehicles.
  - f. Receive, review and approve the hazmat team's bill with the required backup documentation and mail it to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency within 30 days of the closure of the incident c/o the Response and Recovery Section Manager along with a copy of the check in/checkout forms.
3. Under State law and regulations, if NEMA does not receive the documentation identified in paragraphs d. and e. above, NEMA will not be able to reimburse the hazmat team and payment will become the responsibility of the requesting local jurisdiction.
4. The list of the ten designated hazmat teams are listed in the "Emergency Assistance to a Hazardous Materials Spill" (Blue Book). The Blue Book may be found online using the following link:  
<https://nema.nebraska.gov/sites/nema.nebraska.gov/files/doc/hazmat-blue-book.pdf>

C. 72<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team (CST)

1. 72<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team is an asset of the Nebraska National Guard. It is a trained hazardous material team that deals in the detection and surveillance of a suspected nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological (NBC/R) event in support of a local Incident Commander.
2. The CST is deployed through the State Emergency Operations Center by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) under authorities and direction of the Office of the Governor. Deployment of the CST must have the approval of the Adjutant General, The National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the Governor. The CST deployment authorizations are coordinated through NEMA and NGB Domestic Operations.

D. CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP)

1. The mission of the CERFP is to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incident and assist local, state and federal agencies in conducting consequence management by providing capabilities to conduct patient decontamination, medical triage, fatality search and recovery, stabilization and casualty search and extraction.
2. The CERFP is regional response team with members from both Army and Air National Guard. There are 200+ personnel who are trained to a minimum of awareness level. Specialty training includes incident command, decontamination and search and recovery.

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