

## **Section 2: Response Procedures**

EPCRA §10003(c)(2) reads:

*Methods and procedures to be followed by facility owners and local emergency and medical personnel to respond to any release of such substances (EHS).*

### **Facility Response Procedures**

EHS facilities in DeKalb County are regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). These facilities are required to plan for chemical emergency response under OSHA's Hazard Communication (HazCom) standard (CFR 1910.120) for facilities handling hazardous materials.

The HazCom standard requires that facility workers are trained in the safe handling of hazardous substances. It also requires facilities to have adequate response procedures in the event of a release. See Section 6 for additional information regarding each facility's OSHA requirements.

The LEPC will continue to obtain facility-specific information and update our files and this plan regularly.

### **Concept of Operations**

Notification of a hazardous materials incident will usually be received by the public, a regulated facility or responder. Emergency Communications personnel will acquire as much information as possible. Each hazardous material regulated facility is responsible for reporting conditions within response perimeters to the proper authorities in the proper format. The local fire department and local police will be notified. While not directly responsible to the County, the local fire departments and fire protection districts are identified as the “led agency” for responding to a hazardous materials incident. The Incident Commander for a hazardous materials incident shall be the highest ranking qualified responder from the local fire department with jurisdiction over the affected area of the incident. The Incident Commander shall follow the concept of the Incident command System (ICS) and National Incident Management system (NIMS). Where incidents cross into other jurisdictions or affect other incidents, use of Unified Command as required by NIMS shall be utilized. If the incident is beyond the extent of the local fire department’s training level they will contact MABAS for qualified Hazmat Level Technicians. The local police will ensure the safety of the general public. The police department will assist with road closings, securing the perimeter and assist with the evacuation of the public if the incident requires those actions. If airspace restrictions become necessary the FAA will be notified by communications. Communications would also notify all three local airports within the county. The community Emergency

Coordinator will be contacted as listed in Section 3. Notification of the incident will be in compliance of Section 4.

## **Local Fire Department Responders**

While not directly responsible to the county, the local fire departments and fire protection districts are identified as the “lead agency” for responding to a hazardous materials incident. The Incident commander for a hazardous materials incident shall be the highest ranking qualified responder from the local fire department with jurisdiction over the affected area of the incident. The Incident commander shall follow the concept of the Incident command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Where incidents cross into other jurisdictions or affect other incidents, use of Unified Command as Required by NIMS shall be utilized. IF the incident is beyond the extent of the local fire department’s training level they will contact MABAS for qualified Hazmat Level Technicians.

The Illinois Mutual Aid Box alarm System (MABAS) provides coordination for mutual aid for Illinois fire Departments. This includes hazardous material incident response coordination.

## **Local Police Responders**

The local police will ensure the safety of the general public. The police department will assist with road closings, securing the perimeter and assist with the evacuation of the public if the incident requires those actions.

## **Local Ambulance Responders**

Usually the local ambulance responders will be provided by the local fire departments and local fire protection districts. Ambulance responders will be kept out of the contaminated area and treat people after they have been decontaminated by the fire department personnel.

## **Medical Personnel**

Kishwaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb County has adopted emergency response procedures from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) guidelines. It is also working on a state-wide mutual aid and response plan.

JCAHO requires all accredited hospitals to be able to perform decontamination for contaminated patients. Many hospitals are choosing to install more sophisticated decontamination equipment. Many hospitals are also working on providing adequate Mass Decontamination facilities in the event of a serious chemical release.

The Illinois Poison Control Center has agreed to provide CAMEO chemical inventory data to any hospital in the state via their Poison Control hotline. This will give area hospitals access to the EHS Facility chemical inventories without having to train hospital staff in the program.

In addition, hospitals are also required to handle small industrial spills within their facility. Hospitals can either perform the cleanup themselves, or contract with an independent firm.