Hazardous materials are used in, or pass through the city almost daily by air, rail and highway. The presence of the major railroad switching complexes/tracks, several large truck shipping terminals and National Airport provides the potential for a large-scale hazardous materials incident.

Currently, this Department does not possess the specialized equipment or training to allow entry into an area compromised with hazardous materials. The Department issued field emergency hoods may be used to exit from a compromised area, but they are not to be used to enter such an area. They are not designed for an operational use of that type.

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

CHEMTREC - an acronym for the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, which is provided as a public service by the Chemical Manufacturer's Association. It is designed to provide immediate information to public safety officials facing a chemical
transportation emergency.

**Hazardous Material** - a substance or material capable of endangering life, health, safety, property and/or the environment.

**Hazardous Materials Incident** - the actual or potential leaking, spilling or burning of hazardous materials.

**HAZMAT** - the Hazardous Materials Response Team staff by firefighters specializing in hazardous materials emergencies.

### 13.2.03 RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Fire Department has primary control in handling:
   1. Fire suppression;
   2. Rescue; and
   3. Containment.

B. The Police Department has primary control in handling:
   1. Securing of the area;
   2. Traffic control; and
   3. Evacuation.

### 13.2.04 PROCEDURES

A. Recognizing that we have no specialized protective equipment or training in HAZMAT, officers responding to, or discovering an incident involving the release or potential release of hazardous materials will exercise extreme caution and discretion in deciding whether to remain in or enter a potentially exposed area. Officers should not expose themselves to the extent that their personal safety would be jeopardized. They will await the arrival of a properly equipped Fire Department HAZMAT unit.

Officers should:
   1. Stay at least 600 feet from the source, if possible;
   2. Refer to Annex A for possible dangers associated with hazardous materials; and
   3. Request that a supervisor respond to the scene.

B. Upon arriving at the scene, observe the area and comply with the following precautions.
   1. Never approach containers that are holding chemicals until you have seen shipping papers or placards that show what type of materials they contain.
   2. Look for placards and labels in any transportation accident involving railroad cars and trucks.
   3. No flares or flames are to be allowed near the hazard area. This includes no
smoking of any kind. Vapors may be ignited by heat, sparks or flames.

4. Do not walk into or touch spilled materials.

5. Keep away from and avoid inhalation of vapor clouds, dust or smoke.

6. Keep out of low areas (ditches, culverts) where fumes naturally collect. Most vapors are heavier than air.

7. If it is absolutely necessary to approach an incident, officers should:
   a. Approach from upwind (wind at your back);
   b. Approach any containers from the sides (stay away from the ends); and
   c. Move victims out of the area immediately.

C. If it is suspected that hazardous materials are spilled or leaking:

1. Isolate the scene (at least 600 feet) and move people upwind;

2. Have Communications notify the Fire Department HAZMAT team;

3. If substances are identified by placard or label, refer to the Department of Transportation (DOT) Emergency Response Guidebook for potential dangers and evacuation distances;

4. Have Communications contact CHEMTREC (800) 424-9300;

5. Request assistance to establish a perimeter to keep vehicles and pedestrians out;

6. Using voice amplification equipment, attempt to clear the area inside the perimeter of people; and

7. Wait for the Fire Department HAZMAT team to provide further guidance.

D. Once a scene is confirmed as a hazardous materials incident the steps in section 13.2.04.C must be followed. Officers are to remain outside of the contaminated zone and allow the properly equipped and trained Fire Department HAZMAT team to operate in the compromised area.

E. These additional procedures must be implemented by a supervisor or higher authority:

1. The initiation of a Serious Incident Notification via PIO;

2. The initiation of the Incident Command System (ICS). The Incident Commander will be the assigned Fire official on the scene; and

3. The mobilization for any large-scale evacuation or expansion of the perimeter as directed the Incident Commander. Refer to the ICS Manual for guidance on evacuation procedures.

F. The area must remain isolated until the danger has passed and the hazardous materials have been cleaned up.

G. All officers will check out with the Safety Officer for decontamination prior to going off-duty.
BY AUTHORITY OF:

Earl L. Cook
Chief of Police
ANNEX A

SOME HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DANGERS

Police officers at hazardous material incidents are just as endangered as civilians and for similar reasons. Patrol officers, like civilians, are not equipped with the protective clothing and breathing apparatus afforded fire fighters. Further, they do not always recognize the dangers posed by hazardous materials.

**Fires** - The hazard with a chemical or pesticide fire is that the fire itself is often not hot enough to destroy or incinerate the substance. The chemical is vaporized and carried upward on a thermal column of smoke. Once away from the fire, the cooler air causes the vapor to condense and fall back to the ground. People, crops, animals, and anything beneath the descending vapors become contaminated.

**Explosion** - Compressed gases, liquids, and explosives are obvious explosion hazards. A particularly disastrous type of explosion is known as a "BLEVE" or Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion. The resulting fireball can often be hundreds of feet in diameter. Propane is the substance most associated with BLEVEs, but most flammable liquids can cause the same reaction. BLEVEs may also occur with smaller containers of compressed gases similar to those found around houses and even the small cylinders found on barbecue grills or campers.

**Poisoning** - Many hazardous materials kill by poisoning. Vapors may be skin irritating and eye contact may cause blindness. Still others are neuro-toxins that attack the central nervous system. Decontamination becomes extremely important in situations where officers are exposed to poisonous substances. When instructions are given by officials at the scene or at a hospital concerning decontamination, they should be followed to the letter. If ETIOLOGICAL AGENTS (infectious substances) are present, isolation, extensive medical observation, and follow-up treatment may be required.

**Asphyxiation and Freezing** - Leaks of hazardous gases, liquids or vapors may act to exclude the available air and in low areas may accumulate enough odorless material to kill. Certain hazardous material may be cryogenic in nature, causing temperatures low enough to freeze body tissues instantly. Liquid nitrogen is one of these materials.