

# Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan

## Washoe County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program

### SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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*Section 1 contains the basic plan, including the purpose, mission statement, objective, scope, and authorities. It also describes the relationship to laws and other plans.*

#### 1.1 Purpose and Mission Statement

The Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan establishes the emergency response procedures to be followed on and off site required to protect the health and safety of Washoe County's populace, the environment, and public and private property from the effects of hazardous materials. It is a companion to the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team Operating Guide (found on the LEPC website [washoecounty.us/lepc](http://washoecounty.us/lepc)) as well as the regional commodity flow study.

The Washoe County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan is the principal guide for agencies of Washoe County, its incorporated cities, and other local government entities in mitigating hazardous materials (HAZMAT) emergencies. This plan is consistent with federal, state, and local laws and is intended to facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination, particularly between local, state, and federal agencies, in hazardous materials emergencies.

This plan is an operational plan as well as a reference document; it may be used for pre-emergency planning as well as emergency response. Agencies having roles and responsibilities established by this plan are encouraged to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and emergency response checklists based on the provisions of this plan.

The mission of the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan is to:

- Establish a strategy to minimize the adverse effects of hazardous materials upon life, health, property, and the environment.
- Identify community resources for emergency planning, response, and recovery activities.
- Coordinate an effective and efficient response to a hazardous material incident.

#### 1.2 Objective

The objective of the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan is to enable emergency response personnel to evaluate hazardous materials emergencies and take appropriate emergency actions to save lives, reduce injuries, and prevent or minimize damage to property and the environment. These actions may include the following:

- Secure the affected area, isolate the hazard, and deny the entry of unauthorized persons into the area.
- Identify the hazardous material(s) involved.
- Provide rapid and effective warning, information, and instructions to threatened populations.
- Provide means to access technical resources to stabilize the affected area and return to normal conditions as quickly as possible.
- Train and equip emergency response and allied medical personnel HAZMAT team members as well as first responders to efficiently and effectively mitigate HAZMAT incidents.
- Describe the overall emergency response organization for HAZMAT incidents occurring within Washoe County.

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- Delineate the responsibilities of local, state, and federal agencies in a HAZMAT incident in Washoe County.
- Establish lines of authority and coordination for HAZMAT incidents.
- Facilitate mutual aid to supplement local resources.
- Describe procedures for accessing outside funding (e.g., state and federal funding) for the mitigation of and recovery from HAZMAT incidents.

### **1.3 Scope**

- The policies, procedures, and provisions of this plan are applicable to all agencies and individuals, public and private, having responsibilities for HAZMAT emergency preparedness, response, recovery and/or mitigation in Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County.
- For the purpose of this plan, a hazardous material is defined as:
  - Any substance that causes or may cause adverse health effects on health or safety of employees, the general public, or the environment; any biological agent or other disease causing agent or waste or combination of wastes.
- This plan is intended to address releases and threatened releases of hazardous materials, including oil spills, radiological incidents, and acts of terrorism. Acute releases require an immediate response in order to protect public health and safety, property, and the environment.
- This plan does not address the problems associated with the clean-up or remediation of non-emergency or long-term hazardous waste sites.

### **1.4 Authorities**

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 and major amendments:
  - 1986, Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, P.L. 96-510
  - 1990, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, P.L. 101-508
  - 1992, Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act, P.L. 102-426
  - 1996, Asset Conservation, Lender Liability, and Deposit Insurance Protection Act, P.L. 104-426
  - 1996, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, P.L. 104-201
  - 1999, Superfund Recycling Equity Act, P.L. 106-113
  - 2002, Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, P.L. 107-118
- Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. (Public Law 99-499)
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and regulations promulgated under that Act. Several amendments to this act from 1974 through 2002 can be found on the OSHA web site.

### **1.5 Relationship to Laws and Other Plans**

- All portions of this plan shall be in accordance with the current federal, state, and local laws governing hazardous material emergency response.
- All portions of this plan shall be complementary to federal, state, and local fixed facility plans.

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- All portions of this plan are in coordination with and complementary to the Emergency Management Plans of the cities, the county, and the Multi-Casualty Incident Plan of the Washoe County Health District.