

**Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan**  
Washoe County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program

## **SECTION 3: CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

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*Section 3 contains general information about coordination and agreements. It describes levels of response and response functions.*

### **3.1 General**

The problem of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) releases is not only a governmental responsibility, but also one that includes all private industry locations in the county. Hazard identification, planning, and response preparedness is constantly changing in the county and must be addressed by a cooperative partnership of the public and private sector. Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks are responsible for conducting emergency HAZMAT operations within their own jurisdictions.

The Incident Command System (ICS) provides the flexibility to rapidly activate and establish an organizational form around the functions that need to be performed in order to efficiently and effectively mitigate an emergency. For this reason, ICS will be used during all HAZMAT incidents in Washoe County.

### **3.2 Inter-jurisdictional Coordination**

The Cities and the County recognize adjacent states, counties, and the sovereign nature of Tribal Governments and may provide assistance, upon request, to prevent injuries, loss of life, and to protect property and the environment. The Cities and the County recognize the value and need to plan, respond, mitigate, and recover from HAZMAT incidents.

### **3.3 Predetermined Agreements**

Special agreements or contracts may exist between businesses and contractors to plan, respond to, mitigate, and recover from HAZMAT incidents.

### **3.4 Levels of Response**

HAZMAT incidents are categorized as Level I, II, or III depending on the severity of the incident. The criteria used to determine the level of an incident includes:

- The characteristics of the hazardous material,
- The nature of its release,
- The area affected by the HAZMAT incident (e.g., populations, sensitive ecosystems, waterways, transportation routes, etc.),
- The extent of multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional involvement,
- Evacuations, injuries, or fatalities, and
- The technical expertise and equipment needed to safely mitigate the incident.

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Response Level	Description	Contact
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b> Potential Emergency Condition (Lowest)</p>	<p>Any incident involving hazardous material/waste which can be abated by first responding fire department personnel from the agency having jurisdiction or may be abated by the members of the Regional HAZMAT Response Team (TRIAD) from the agency having jurisdiction, (i.e., minor fuel spills or small amounts of common materials).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 911 Dispatchers</li> <li>• Fire Department</li> <li>• Police Department/Sheriff's Office</li> <li>• Public Information Officer</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>II</b> Limited Emergency Condition (Intermediate)</p>	<p>Any incident which requires activation of the on-shift TRIAD members from the TRIAD agencies. A Level II response would be appropriate in any incident requiring specialized training and equipment or any unknown or suspected chemical/substance. A Level II response may be requested at any time by the Incident Commander (IC). Additional on-shift TRIAD members may be called at the discretion of the IC.</p>	<p>All Agencies in Level I and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRIAD</li> <li>• REOC Staff/County EM</li> <li>• Public Works Departments</li> <li>• Washoe County Health District</li> <li>• American Red Cross</li> <li>• REMSA</li> <li>• Area hospitals</li> <li>• NHP</li> <li>• Public utilities</li> <li>• CHEMTREC</li> <li>• National Response Center</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>III</b> Full Emergency Condition (Highest)</p>	<p>Any incident which has exceeded or is expected to exceed the capabilities of the on-shift TRIAD members. A Level III response would be appropriate for an incident of a large scale, one of the long duration, and those presenting extensive decontamination or evacuation/ rescue problems. The IC may declare a Level III incident at any time he/she deems necessary. A Level III response will necessitate the response of all on and off shift TRIAD members.</p>	<p>All Level I and II Agencies plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual Aid Fire, Police, Emergency Medical</li> <li>• NDEM</li> <li>• NDEP</li> <li>• Nevada Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>• EPA</li> <li>• REMSA</li> <li>• ATSDR</li> <li>• FEMA</li> <li>• OSC/RRT</li> </ul>

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### **3.5 Response Functions**

The Response Function Appendices are those areas of the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan that require further explanation and direction of key elements of the plan. These functional areas may include Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), checklists, statements of intent, phone lists, or a combination of documents. These areas may have multiple agencies or groups that input information or add resources to the sections. The LEPC shall review these Response Functions annually to assure that all of the criteria of the functions are met and that the sections contain the most recent information. The following sections have been determined by the LEPC to be Response Functions:

- Section 5: Notification and Warning
- Section 6: Communications, Public Information, and Community Relations
- Section 7: Evacuation Procedures - Personal Protection of Citizens
- Section 8: Training and Exercise Program
- Annex G: Resource Management and Lists
- Annex H: LEPC Training and Exercising Plan