	<b>NEW PALTZ POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> <b>Policy and Procedures</b>	
	<i>Subject</i> <b>3.4 First Responder Awareness Training</b>	
	<b>ISSUED: March 30, 2011</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE: March 30, 2011</b>
	<b>REVISED: December 13, 2013</b>	<b>RESCINDED:</b>
<i>N.Y.S. Accreditation Ref: N/A</i>	<i>Page 1 of 4</i>	<b>Authority: Chief Joseph A. Snyder</b>

### First Responder Awareness Training


#### POLICY:

The Town of New Paltz Police Department will continuously provide members with up-to-date procedures and training in order to act as a First Responder at the Awareness level at the scene of any actual or potential hazardous material release. These members will have sufficient training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas:

1. An understanding of what hazardous materials are, and the risks associated with them in an incident.
2. An understanding of the potential outcomes associated with an emergency created when hazardous materials are present.
3. The ability to recognize the presence of hazardous materials in an emergency.
4. The ability to identify the hazardous material if possible.
5. An understanding of the role of the first responder awareness member as stated in this policy, site security and control and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook.
6. The ability to realize the need for additional resources, and to make appropriate notifications to the New Paltz Police and Ulster County Communication's Center.

#### DEFINITIONS:

1. **Hazardous material/substance:** All flammable liquids and solids, explosives, gases, oxidizers, poisons, radioactive material, corrosives, and any substance that cannot be identified but could potentially pose risk to human life.
2. **OSHA:** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, an arm of the federal government whose mission is to ensure health and safety in the workplace.
3. **"U.N." Number and "N.A." Number:** The U.N. number is the "United Nations" number also referred to as the "Universal Number." The N.A. number is the North American number. Both of these numbers will always be four digits in length and appear either directly in or below the placard. Every actual or potentially hazardous material is assigned a U.N. or N.A. number and can be found in the North American Emergency Response Guidebook. The guidebook will commonly refer to these numbers as the I.D. number
4. **Numbered Placard:** A diamond shaped metallic placard containing a four digit U.N. or N.A. ID number that must be displayed on tank cars, cargo tanks, portable tanks and other bulk packaging containing any hazardous material or substance.
5. **Placard and an Orange Panel:** A diamond shaped metallic placard and an orange panel directly below containing a four digit U.N. or N.A. ID number that must be displayed on tank cars, cargo tanks, portable tanks and other bulk packaging containing any hazardous material or substance.

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<i>N.Y.S. Accreditation Ref: N/A</i>	<i>Page 2 of 4</i>	<b>Authority: Chief Joseph A. Snyder</b>

6. **CHEMTREC:** The Chemical Transportation Emergency Center. This agency, which is a service of the Chemical Manufacturers Association provides 24-hour assistance to emergency responders, carriers, shippers and all others handling hazardous materials.


### **IDENTIFICATION OF RISK:**

1. Since there is not a single method for the identification of all types of hazardous material, members will always be in the “mind frame” that identification of risk starts with an awareness that the risk can exist at any time, on any type of call. Members must expect the unexpected and exhibit a high degree of suspicion any time that the likelihood exists that a hazardous material may be present at the scene of a call. In addition to labels, placards, warning signs, or the presence of suspicious containers, members must also include the presence of certain medical complaints of those affected as possible indicators. These include, but are not limited to; nausea, vomiting, difficulty breathing, headache, dizziness, fainting, profuse sweating, noxious odors burns or burning sensation and altered mental status. Any of these or similar complaints may indicate the possible presence of a hazardous substance release.
2. Although hazardous materials can be found in every household, areas of particular concern are chemical storage areas, paint and hardware stores, pool supply businesses, agricultural/gardening facilities, sewer treatment and waste disposal centers, all laboratories, power companies, radiation treatment centers, and fuel/oil storage areas. Immediate concern will also include any transportation related incidents involving truck, trailer, tanker, rail car, plane or ship whose manifest is not immediately known.

### **RESPONSE TO A SCENE:**

When members are dispatched to the scene of a known hazardous substance release they are to immediately confirm their route of travel and designated arrival location via radio with the communication center. If members respond to any situation not identified as a hazardous material incident at time of dispatch, but the situation appears to possibly involve hazardous substances, the following actions will be taken:

1. The New Paltz Fire Department will be immediately dispatched.
2. Members will position themselves upwind/uphill if possible.
3. Members will initially establish a 500 foot safety zone and keep other from entering this zone.
4. Visually survey the scene and attempt to identify the potential threat.
5. Members will use good judgment in deciding whether to enter the 500 safety zone. Contributing factors to this decision will be your health and safety as well as the lives of anyone who may be trapped in this zone.
6. Log all observations and actions taken.
7. The duty sergeant or Officer in Charge is to be requested to the scene and the Lieutenant and Chief immediately notified.

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<i>N.Y.S. Accreditation Ref: N/A</i>	<i>Page 3 of 4</i>	<b>Authority: Chief Joseph A. Snyder</b>

Members are to be aware that “Hazardous Material Awareness” Training does not qualify you to function in the “warm and hot zones.” The warm zone is defined as the area where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support take place. The hot zone is defined as the area immediately surrounding a dangerous incident which extends far enough to prevent adverse effects from released chemicals to personnel outside the zone. Members are reminded that they are not trained or equipped to operate in these areas and should use extreme caution and good judgment in deciding to enter these areas if a life is in jeopardy.

In incidents involving vehicles where the diamond shaped signs are affixed, the U.S. Department of Transportation North American Emergency Response Guidebook will be consulted to identify the hazard. Members are reminded that not all vehicles are placarded, yet they can contain small quantities of hazardous materials. Vehicles labeled only with a “DANGEROUS” placard can be loaded with up to 1000 pounds of various chemicals that can be hazardous if the incident has caused them to mix together. In some cases there may be no placards at all displayed. Members should make an effort to ask the driver of any cargo vehicle involved in an accident if there are any “hazardous materials” on board.


Members are advised to provide all information gained to the first arriving Fire Officer on scene (if not already present). If at all possible, members should allow the fire department to contact CHEMTREC (1-800-424-9300) or the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) HazMat Bureau (518-474-6746) to eliminate confusion that may be caused by multiple agencies attempting to make contact.

**CONTAMINATION:**

1. In the event a member or vehicle becomes contaminated either directly from the initial response or via cross-contamination, additional resources must be requested to assume their role as these personnel/vehicles are to be considered “out of service.” The Fire Department Incident Commander or most senior Hazmat Officer shall be contacted to determine the best course of action for decontamination and/or proper medical follow-up.

**MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS:**

1. A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is a manufacturer’s summary of a product’s potential hazards. The MSDS provides recommendations for the safe use, handling and storage of the products as well as emergency procedures to follow in the event of a spill or leak. An MSDS must be prepared for every product that can be considered hazardous under the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard. Members are required to be familiar with the basic contents of an MSDS and are always to inquire if one is available at the scene of any potential or actual hazardous material incident.

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<i>N.Y.S. Accreditation Ref: N/A</i>	<i>Page 4 of 4</i>	<b>Authority: Chief Joseph A. Snyder</b>

2. Briefly stated, a MSDS will contain nine (9) sections:

- a. Section One: This section identifies the chemical described in the MSDS. The manufacturer's name, address and emergency telephone number are provided as well.
- b. Section Two: Outlined here are the hazardous ingredients that make up the chemical
- c. Section Three: Provides many indications of the possible hazards of a product.
- d. Section Four: This section indicates the chemical's potential to catch fire or explode.
- e. Section Five: This section indicates whether a product has special storage requirements. Many substances will change, sometimes violently, when mixed with other materials or when exposed to physical conditions such as moisture, heat or sunlight.
- f. Section Six: This section explains how the chemical enters the body and the immediate (**Acute**) and long term (**Chronic**) signs and symptoms of overexposure.
- g. Section Seven: Discussed in this section are the procedures to follow upon accidental release or spill, including the proper course of corrective action to use.
- h. Section Eight: This section provides manufacturer's recommendations to limit exposure including respirator selection, engineering controls, protective equipment and work practices.
- i. Section Nine: This section describes any further storage, handling, health or safety precautions not discussed in any previous section of the MSDS.

**TRAINING:**

All Police Officers will receive mandatory HazMat Awareness training conducted by an instructor certified to conduct hazardous materials emergency response training. All members will receive copies of this plan, and additional copies will be available in the duty room. In addition all police officers will be given mandatory refresher training annually, or more frequently if changes in the plan are implemented.

**PERSONAL AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:**

1. The New Paltz Police Department will ensure that each of its vehicles is equipped with disposable gloves, face shields or goggles, masks and Tyvek jumpsuits. Replacement equipment will be available in the duty room 24 hours a day. In addition each vehicle will be equipped with the North American Emergency Response Guidebook as a reference guide.
2. The New Paltz Police Department does not carry self contained breathing apparatus or chemical exposure suits. In no way should any of the personal protective equipment carried in our vehicles be used as a substitute for the aforementioned equipment.