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# DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

January 2005

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## DECON

Decontamination is such an important part of Haz-Mat response at all levels. It is vital to our safety as well as those we serve and protect.

### Why Decontaminate?

- To prevent the spread of the material, "Keep it in the HOT ZONE."
- To reduce the effects of the materials on victims;  
DOSE=concentration X exposure time.
- To permit equipment to be returned to service.

### Types of DECON:

- GROSS DECON; you, your crew and maybe a couple of victims using water, or maybe soap & water.
- MASS DECON; gross DECON for large numbers of victims.
- Technical DECON; what the Haz-Mat Team does prior to suit removal from entrants in Chemical Protective Clothing. This type of decon also includes the use of special solutions to decontaminate pieces of equipment.

### Basic Principals

#### Chemical contamination:

- 80% of contaminants will remain on outer clothing.
- Remove outer clothing. Leave clothing at the scene.
- Water is **good**.
- Soap and water is **better**.

- **Do not** wait on soap.
- Consider the runoff, it is not necessary to contain the runoff in a life saving mode.
- In cold weather decon may need to be set up inside buildings. How do you walk people through a water spray at zero degrees?

Biological agents may not present the same urgency as chemical contamination. Each of these situations will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, usually with input from the local Health Department.

The effectiveness of Decon operations must be evaluated using detection and monitoring devices. If victims are treated and transported to medical facilities prior to being **properly** decontaminated EMS personnel and vehicles will become contaminated.

Always contact the receiving Hospital as soon as possible. They must be informed prior to your arrival. Be prepared to advise them of the following:

- Name of the chemical.
- Extent of contamination.
- The type and extent of Decon performed at the scene.

When in doubt DECON.

Dilution is the solution to most decon problems.

These are general guidelines; refer to other sources for more detailed info, or call the Coordinator.

## **Welcome**

Please welcome our newest Team member:  
Josh Johnson—Sugarcreek Twp. F.D.,  
Please welcome Josh when you see him.

## **2005 Training Schedule**

Training for 2005 will mainly consist of hands on sessions. The subject matter for each month is open at this time. In 2005 we will be putting a new Haz-Mat 1 in service and will receive numerous pieces of new equipment. The equipment will be utilizing new technology and will require our Team to train with some pieces repeatedly to develop the familiarity required to be proficient in its use, care and maintenance.

March training is moved to the second week to avoid conflicts with Easter/Spring break.

### **February Training**

February training will be conducted by Jon Reichman, RN of Miami Valley Hospital. The subject is Radiation Safety and Survey Instruments. Jon is putting a great presentation together—you will enjoy his style.

We will be at the Dayton FD Training Center on McFadden Ave which is off of Springfield Street.

### **January**

No Training

### **February 17-18-19**

0900-1200 hours

Dayton Fire Training Center

Radiation Safety

### **March 10-11-12**

0900-1200 hours

### **April 21-22-23**

0900-1200 hours

### **May 19-20-21**

0900-1700 hours

### **June 16-17-18**

0900-1200 hours

### **July 21-22-23**

0900-1200 hours

### **August 18-19-20**

0900-1200 hours

### **September 15-16-17**

0900-1700 hours

### **October 20-21-22**

0900-1200 hours

### **November 17-18-19**

0900-1200 hours

### **December**

No Training