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# DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

December 2006

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## **Safety**

This is the last in a series on safety for our crews.

It is imperative that we constantly address safety issues at our scenes. The safety of our crews and the public must be at the top of our priority list, and it must be addressed at each and every incident. The use of an Incident Management System and the creation and staffing of a Safety Officer position is mandated by OSHA 1910.120. More importantly, we should have a SO because we are genuinely concerned about each other's safety.

Following are some of my observations at Haz-Mat and general emergency scenes:

- The physical properties and the dangers of a Haz-Mat usually do not improve with time spent out of its container or exposed to temperature differentials.
- The Haz-Mat may react unpredictably when out of its container and exposed to the elements.
- The Haz-Mat may react violently when mixed with other, sometimes common, materials; (i.e., water.)
- After exposure to fire, structural members of buildings do not gain more strength.
- The confined space a victim is trapped in does not become more tenable with time.
- The trench that has collapsed or the walls that are sloughing in will not become more stable in 30 minutes.

- The swift, flowing water that has washed the vehicle off the road and down the creek bed will not be less deadly in 15 minutes.
- The longer we operate at the scene the more comfortable we are.
- The more comfortable we are the more relaxed and lax we become.
- When we are lax in our operations it can and will turn deadly.

If the above statements are true, and I believe they are, we must continue to operate in a safe manner at our scenes; even Haz Mat scenes which we all know will take hours and not minutes.

**STAY SAFE STAY HEALTHY**

## **Training**

### **40 hour Technician Class**

A Haz-Mat Technician class will be conducted on January 6-7,13-14, 2007 at the New Lebanon Fire Department. This class is open to all Fire, Law Enforcement and EMS personnel at no charge. This is a Cleveland State University class.

If planning to attend or if you have questions, please call Denny Bristow at 937-901-5112.

### **2006 Training Schedule**

#### **December**

No Training

**Thanks**

Thanks to all of you for your support this past year. It is always a pleasure working with the fireservice personnel in the area.

I hope each and every one of you are blessed in the coming year.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*  
*Denny Bristow*