



GLASTONBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES



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SOG NUMBER: HZT-002

ISSUED DATE: 01-03-05

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-03-05

REVISION #: 3

REVISED DATE: 03-26-20

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03-26-20

CATEGORY: HAZ-MAT

SUB-CATEGORY: EMERGENCY RESPONSE - GENERAL

SUBJECT: DECONTAMINATION

RELATED GUIDELINE: HAZ-001

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Section I – Introduction

A. Objective

To standardize the department's techniques for decontamination of members and victims of exposure to chemicals, WMD or biological pathogens. This document contains general guidelines to be followed anytime decontamination is needed to be performed.

B. Applicability

Based on current levels of training and equipment available, the Glastonbury Fire Department shall perform decontamination at the Hazardous Materials First Responder - Operational level as defined in OSHA regulations 29CFR 1910.120

The Glastonbury Fire Department shall perform decontamination for the purpose of protecting human life or the environment from the effects of hazardous chemicals, or pathogens.

Their function is to remove harmful chemicals from victims and to contain the chemical from harming others or the environment.

The guidelines outlined on the following pages shall be followed at any incident requiring decontamination, unless altered by Site-Specific plans or Incident Specific procedures.

C. References

Glastonbury Standard Operating Guidelines (Hazardous Materials Incidents)  
Town of Glastonbury Hazardous Materials Operation Plan  
NFPA 471

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Section II - Need for Decontamination

- A. This guideline should be instituted anytime there is a potential for exposure to hazardous chemicals, biological pathogens or there are victims who may have been exposed.
- B. The Incident Commander shall determine the level of decontamination needed at any incident.
- C. The criteria to establishing decontamination should meet one of the following:
  - 1. Firefighters will be safe - protect personnel with proper protective clothing including SCBA.
  - 2. The hazardous product is causing harm to the victim.
  - 3. The product will cause downstream contamination.
  - 4. The product is recognized, identified and monitored.

Section III - Levels of Decontamination

- A. The Incident Commander based on the severity of the incident, shall determine the level of decontamination that will be necessary to safely control the incident.
  - 1. Level I Decontamination - Shall be performed by the members of the Glastonbury Fire Department according to the guidelines listed in this document.
  - 2. Level II Decontamination - Shall be performed by a licensed contractor or State of Connecticut Decontamination team.
- B. The Incident Commander shall appoint a "Decon Officer" to supervise Decontamination.

Section IV - Setting up Decontamination

- A. Whenever utilized, the decontamination line will be established in the warm zone; starting at the perimeter of the hot zone and finishing before the cold zone.
- B. The method of decontamination will depend on the type and nature of the product involved. When Level I decontamination is conducted, the following methods shall be utilized.
  - 1. Mechanical - physical removal of the product by brushing off material or removal of contaminated clothing - should be done by the victim as much as possible before contacting rescuers.
  - 2. Absorption - blotting off of heavy liquid contaminants using rags or paper towels.
  - 3. Dilution - water rise of affected areas using fog streams with low pressure.
  - 4. Isolation and disposal - for equipment; contaminated equipment and clothing will be left within the isolation area.

Section V - Establishing the Decontamination Line

A. The equipment needed to set-up a decontamination line includes the following items which are to be stored in the Department's Haz Mat Trailer.

- 1-3/4" hose
- plastic
- brushes
- garden hose
- portable pools
- soap
- reducer/manifold
- steps
- spray nozzles
- buckets

(See Appendix A for Decontamination Line Diagram)

B. The following equipment shall be used to set-up the decon line.

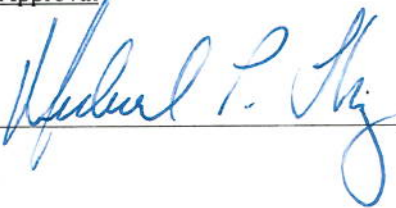
1. A charged 100 foot section of 1-3/4" hose and a sheet of plastic shall be used to create a catch-all (approx 20' x 30').
2. A manifold and reducer (1.5" to garden hose) shall be attached to hose line used to create the catch-all.
3. 2 garden hoses with spray nozzles shall be attached to the manifold.
4. Garden hose #1 and pool #1 shall be used for gross rinse.
5. Garden hose #2 and pool #2, buckets, brushes and simple green shall be used for wash and rinse.

C. Once decontamination is complete, the victim shall report to shower facility or EMS.

D. Command will ensure debriefing of all victims is conducted prior to leaving the decon area.

Section VI- Approval

Fire Chief



Date of Approval:

3/26/2020

**APPENDIX A**

**DECONTAMINATION LINE**

**HOT ZONE**

**EQUIPMENT DROP**

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|---|
| <b>WARM ZONE</b><br>Self Decon<br>Clothing removal                                    |
| <b>Mechanical decon by Fire Personnel</b>   |
| <b>Dilution</b><br>#1 Garden hose and #1 Pool   |
| <b>Wash and Rinse</b><br>#2 Garden Hose and #2 Pool<br>Simple Green, buckets, brushes |
| <b>Dry and Cover</b>  |

**To Cold Zone**  
Showers or EMS