



IR62

HAZARDOUS INCIDENTS

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POLICY

1. The Delta Police Department (Department) will provide procedures to members to assist them in ensuring their personal safety when responding to potentially hazardous situations involving chemical and volatile substances, fire calls, power lines, and radioactive materials.

REASON FOR POLICY

2. To seek to ensure members’ safety by making them familiar with the dangers associated with potential hazardous calls.

RELATED POLICIES

- DM24 – Occupational Health & Safety
- DP50 – Personal Protective Equipment



PROCEDURES

Chemical & Volatile Substances

3. E-Comm has access to records of locations in Delta where hazardous contaminants are stored, and to reference material that interprets the various warning signs displayed on containers containing chemicals or volatile substances.
4. E-Comm can also contact CANUTEC, 613-996-6666, which maintains a 24-hour emergency phone and provides information on how to handle a fire, spill or leak resulting from the transport of dangerous goods, as well as information on whether material is explosive or flammable and treatment guidelines for persons who have been exposed to various material or their by-products.
5. Members shall request E-Comm to call the Delta Environmental Control Officer, who is on call 24 hours, when dealing with a situation involving contamination by dangerous chemicals or other materials.
6. Members are to use extreme caution whenever responding to situations involving chemical substances, especially those related to collisions of vehicles or trains where fire, discharge, emission or escape of dangerous goods is a factor.
7. Members first on the scene should attempt to approach from an upwind position, preferably at a higher elevation.
8. The first priority on arrival should be to isolate the immediate area and maintain perimeter control.
9. The situation should then be assessed from a safe distance, and as much information from on scene resources, including from any available dangerous goods placards, labels or shipping papers, is to be obtained.
10. Obtained information and a general assessment of the incident should be relayed to E-Comm as soon as possible. E-Comm will advise the Duty NCO, who will consult with the Dangerous Goods Centre, Delta Fire Department and the Environmental Control Officer to formulate an overall response plan to the incident.



Fire Calls

- 11. As directed by the Delta Fire Department, upon being notified by E-Comm of a fire call, members will also attend and provide assistance within the scope of their policing authorities.
- 12. Members responding to a fire call will be primarily responsible for the direction of all vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area of the fire, in order that the Fire Department can lay hose lines and manoeuvre their apparatus.
- 13. Members who discover a fire shall immediately request E-Comm to advise the Fire Department Dispatch. If the fire involves a building, members shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that all persons in the building are evacuated. In doing so, members must consider their own safety first relative to the intensity of the fire.
- 14. In cases of suspected arson, the Duty NCO will request the services of the Investigation Bureau to assist the investigation.

Utilities – Dangerous Conditions

- 15. Members observing damaged or downed wires, or lamp standards, gas leakage or any potentially dangerous situations, shall notify E-Comm, and, when necessary to ensure safety, members shall isolate the area and remain at the scene, if safe to do so, until all danger has passed or such time as the responsible agency has taken control of the hazard.

Power Lines

- 16. Downed power lines must be regarded as energized and therefore potentially lethal. In all cases of downed power lines, E-Comm shall be requested to dispatch the Delta Fire Department and B.C. Hydro to the scene.
- 17. Members must use extreme caution and at all times maintain at least the minimum distance from the energized source as prescribed by WorkSafeBC and set out in the following table:

General limits of approach		
Voltage	Minimum distance	
Phase to phase	Metres	Feet
Over 750 V to 75 kV	3	10



Over 75 kV to 250 kV	4.5	15
Over 250 kV to 550 kV	6	20

- 18. Under no circumstances shall members assume under that the electrical power at the scene has been shut off, and it is mandatory for B.C. Hydro personnel to attend the scene to confirm the lines have been de-energized before any attempt is made to complete needed rescue operations.
- 19. When a B.C. Hydro pole, tower or substation has been struck by a motor vehicle, the attending member shall request E-Comm to contact and advise B.C. Hydro of the incident, even if there is no apparent damage.

Natural Gas Leaks

- 20. Extremely hazardous conditions may exist at the scene of natural gas leaks, and members must take precaution when approaching these areas, bearing in mind that automobile motors, flashlights, portable radios, and other sources of electricity could ignite the gas and cause an explosion.
- 21. If a gas leak is suspected, E-Comm shall be advised to contact Fortis B.C. and the Delta Fire Department, to request their attendance at the scene. Members will attend when advised of a natural gas leak by E-Comm or the public, or when otherwise requested by the Fire Department or Fortis B.C.
- 22. The decision to evacuate people in a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation will be at the discretion of Fortis B.C., and it is the responsibility of the Department to coordinate and assist with the evacuation.
- 23. The Department will rely on Fortis B.C. to determine when the situation becomes stable and safe.

Radioactive Materials

- 24. Due to the dangerous nature of radioactive materials and the serious health risks posed by exposure to such materials, a building storing radioactive materials should be appropriately placarded with radioactive signage, and members are to strictly adhere to any directions provided on signs.
- 25. In the event that a building storing radioactive materials is exposed to risk of fire or other danger, members will under no circumstances enter the building, and shall leave required rescue operations to properly equipped fire personnel.



26. Members shall refer and adhere to the 'Canadian Border Services Agency Radiation Protection Portal – Response Plan' in the event the Department is contacted by that Agency regarding radioactive material at Deltaport or elsewhere.
27. If a member has cause to suspect they have been exposed to radioactive materials, the member should:
 - a) seek immediate medical attention; and
 - b) not to eat, smoke, drink, or place anything else in their mouth, until it has been authoritatively determined that the member's hands are free from contamination.
28. Radiation exposure shall be reported in writing to WorkSafeBC and Health Canada, with a copy of the correspondence placed on the member's personnel file.

*Revised Dates:
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