Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section **Operations**	**Referral No.** **O-O3**	**Subject:** **Response to Haz Mat Incidents**	**Date Issued** **11/02**	**Date Revised** **3/08**

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safe response to hazardous materials incidents and define the response plan to hazardous materials alarms.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel respond properly.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command
  - All personnel have the responsibility of wearing proper safety equipment and to operate in a safe manner.
  - All personnel will function at their level of Haz Mat training or below.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- When dispatched to a hazardous materials incident, all personnel will respond to the fire station. When personnel arrive, they will:
  - Obtain any information that the dispatcher received from the caller
  - Obtain wind direction and speed
  - Refer to the wall map to assure a safe uphill and upwind approach to the incident
  - Respond Rescue 9 (R-9) with two (2) personnel on board
    - **R-9 will be the only apparatus to respond at this time**
    - Respond in the pre-planned manner to a "safe distance" from the incident
  - Upon arrival, R-9 will assume initial command of the incident
  - **The command post shall be established in a safe place upwind and uphill of the incident,** preferably within view of the incident
  - Report to dispatch any findings related to the incident (ex. fire, vapor cloud, victims)
  - Attempt to identify the product from a distance with binoculars
  - **Never approach the release in an attempt to identify it**
  - Establish a staging area for other responding companies not involved in initial operations

- Engine 4 and a Medic Unit will stage on the front apron of the fire station until requested by the IC to report to the command post. Utilize upwind, uphill response.
- Other units respond at request of the IC
- The Allen County HazMat Team may be requested for manpower and/or equipment.
- Upon arrival of an officer, all attempts should be made to transfer command to them. A thorough report will be given in person to the officer taking command
  - If the fire Chief is on scene, by law, he/she must assume command