

## FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTE # 6-9

### ISSUE:    **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/CBRNE RESPONSE**

#### **(a combination of the previous GN # 6-9 and GN # 6-15)**

Fire Departments providing Hazardous Materials or Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Terrorism response should meet the requirements of the NFPA 472 Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents, 2013 edition.

Fire Departments need to evaluate their hazardous materials response capability and operational response level(s) to ensure that firefighters are adequately trained and equipped to perform at their defined level of response.

It is recommended that in order to ensure compliance with clause 25(2)(a) and (d) of the OHS Act Fire Departments take the following into consideration:

- **Awareness Level** training must be provided to personnel who in the course of their normal duties may respond to an emergency involving hazardous materials/CBRNE and who are expected to recognize the presence of the hazardous materials/CBRNE, protect themselves, call for trained personnel, and secure the area.
- **Operations Level** training must be provided to personnel who in the course of their normal duties may respond to an emergency involving hazardous materials/CBRNE for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, the environment, or property from the effects of the release.
- **Operations Level – Mission Specific** training must be provided to responders who have completed the operations level competencies and who are designated by the employer to perform mission specific tasks such as decontamination, evidence preservation and sampling, and/or air monitoring and sampling.
- **Technician Level** training must be provided to personnel who in the course of their normal duties may respond to an emergency involving hazardous materials/CBRNE using a risk-based response process by which they analyze a problem, select applicable decontamination procedures, and control a release using specialized protective and control equipment.

Fire Departments should document both the theoretical and practical training that corresponds to their required level of response.

Reference:

GN # 7-2 Training Requirements

GN # 7-3 Documentation of Training Plus Daily Training Report

Occupational Health and Safety Act, clauses 25(2)(a) and 25(2)(d)

For additional information regarding Hazardous Materials/CBRNE Response NFPA 472, 2013 edition, Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents may be consulted.