

Grimes County Policy Letter

Regarding Hazardous Material Incidents

To: All Grimes County employees

Subject: Proper response, handling and disposition of hazardous materials in the unincorporated areas of the county and/or incorporated areas included in the county emergency management plan.

References: Grimes County Emergency Management Plan, Annex Q, Hazardous Materials & Oil Spill Response, Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook, OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER).

This policy establishes responsibilities and procedures that must be followed when potentially hazardous materials are found that could pose a safety threat to the public. This policy further states the responsibilities of county employees regarding handling and reporting of hazardous materials.

I. DEFINITIONS

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL - Any substance, in any amount, that when released outside of its normal containment poses a threat to human health and safety or the environment or any substance designated as hazardous under state and/or federal regulations or county ordinances. Hazardous material incidents could include fires, industrial facility releases, chemical spills, and abandoned drums or containers of unknown waste.

HAZARDOUS WASTE - Hazardous waste is any waste that because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, poses a present or potential hazard to human health and safety, or a potential hazard to the environment, e.g., used motor oil, acids that have passed their expiration date, etc.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENT - A hazardous material incident is a condition caused by the release of any hazardous material or hazardous waste that poses a threat to the health and safety of the public or the environment.

A. RESPONSIBILITIES

HANDLING. County employees are NOT to attempt clean up or remove any potential hazardous materials themselves but instead report any suspected hazardous material spills or dumping to the Sheriff's Office. All materials found should be presumed hazardous and thus personnel on scene should maintain a safe distance upwind from the materials.

NOTIFICATION. County employees who encounter potential hazardous materials shall notify Grimes County Dispatch who will then contact the Emergency Management Coordinator at 979-204-4592. The county Emergency Management Coordinator is appointed by the Commissioner's Court as the county's authority responsible for managing and reporting all hazardous material incidents within the

unincorporated areas of the county. The Emergency Management Coordinator will contact either the Navasota Fire Department or the College Station Fire Department HazMat response team for assistance as necessary. The Emergency Management Coordinator will then contact the county's contracted hazmat management company for testing, removal and disposal of hazardous materials.

REPORTING. The Emergency Management Coordinator will ensure all required reports regarding hazardous material incidents in the county are submitted to the appropriate state and federal agencies. The Emergency Management Coordinator will report to the Commissioner's Court on any hazardous material incidents that occur in the county. County employees who do not follow this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

TRAINING. All county employees that could potentially encounter hazardous materials will complete some form of Hazardous Material awareness training such as FEMA online course IS-5.A, An Introduction to Hazardous Materials.

Approved

Date



3-20-2024

Joe Fauth, III
County Judge