

# Hazardous Materials Refresher Training



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Many new materials and processes have made our  
job more dangerous and challenging  
We will briefly discuss the following nine topics in this refresher;

- ❖ Recognition & Identification
- ❖ Chemical Properties and Behaviors
- ❖ DECON
- ❖ Ethanol
- ❖ Fentanyl
- ❖ Butane Hash Oil
- ❖ Crude Oil
- ❖ Chemical Suicides
- ❖ Illicit Labs



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## Any Incidents Recently??

Hazmat...

Unknowns...



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## Recognition & Identification




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Historically, the failure of responders to recognize the presence of hazardous materials has led to unnecessary injuries and deaths.

First responders must be diligent and observant of the hazardous materials present at every emergency.

We will review the 7 clues to the presence of hazardous materials in the following slides.




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### Clue #1: Occupancy Types, Locations, and Pre-incident Surveys



An obvious location of hazardous materials



Some are sometimes not so obvious



Some may not be obvious at all

### Situational Awareness

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### Over the Road Containers



Pressure Cargo Tank



Cryogenic Cargo Tank



Low Pressure Cargo Tank



Box trailer



Dry Bulk



Refrigerated Box Truck



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### Intermodal Containers



Dry Box Container



Cryogenic Containers



Tank Containers



Open Top Container



Tube Type



Reefer Containers



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There are a variety of vessel cargo carriers that are likely to contain hazardous materials

- Tanker  
Petroleum, Chemical, Liquefied Flammable
- Cargo Vessel  
Bulk, Break bulk, Container Vessel
- Barge







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### Intermediate Bulk Containers



Totes



Bags



Ton Containers



Non Bulk Packaging

Pressure and non-pressure





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### Containers for radioactive materials protect against increasing levels of hazards.




Type A



Type B



Type C



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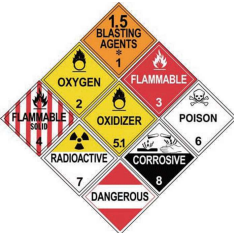
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### Clue #3: Placards, labels, and Markings

- UN Hazard Classes
- Four Digit Identification Numbers
- DOT Placards, Labels, and Markings





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### UN Hazard Classes

**Class 1** – Explosives

**Class 2** – Gases

**Class 3** - Flammable Liquids

**Class 4** - Flammable Solids

**Class 5** - Oxidizing substances and Organic Peroxides

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### UN Hazard Classes

**Class 6** – Toxic and Infectious Substances

**Class 7** – Radioactive Materials

**Class 8** – Corrosive Substances

**Class 9** – Miscellaneous Dangerous Substances and Articles

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U.S. DOT placards are unique for each hazard class.

**DOT Placard Parts**

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### Materials Requiring Placards- Any Amount

TABLE 1

Category of material (Hazard Class or division number and additional description, as appropriate)	Placard name
1.1.....	EXPLOSIVES 1.1.....
1.2.....	EXPLOSIVES 1.2.....
1.3.....	EXPLOSIVES 1.3.....
2.3.....	POISON GAS.....
4.3.....	DANGEROUS WHEN WET.....
5.2 (Organic peroxide, Type B, liquid or solid, temperature controlled).....	ORGANIC PEROXIDE.....
6.1 (Materials poisonous by inhalation (see §171.8)).....	POISON INHALATION HAZARD.....
7 (Radioactive Yellow III label only).....	RADIOACTIVE <sup>1</sup> .....



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### Materials that Require Placards at 1,001 Pounds

Table 2

CLASS OR DIVISION	PLACARD TYPE
1.4	Explosives 1.4
1.5	Explosives 1.5
1.6	Explosives 1.6
2.1	Flammable gas
2.2	Nonflammable gas
3	Flammable liquid
3	Combustible liquid
4.1	Flammable solid
4.2	Spontaneously combustible
5.1	Oxidizer
5.2 (Other than organic peroxide)	Organic peroxide
6.1 (Other than inhalation)	Poison
6.1 (PG III)	Keep away from food
8	Corrosive
9	Class 9



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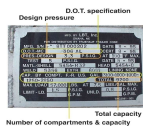
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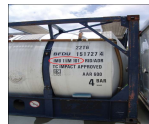
### Vehicles and Rail Cars have markings that can assist with identification



Vehicle



Rail Markings



Intermodal



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**Clue #4: Other Markings and Colors**

- OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (Workplace)
- Manufacturers and Pesticide Labels
- CAS Numbers
- Globally Harmonized System
- Military, Pipelines, and Color Codes



Canada and Mexico has their own similar marking systems.



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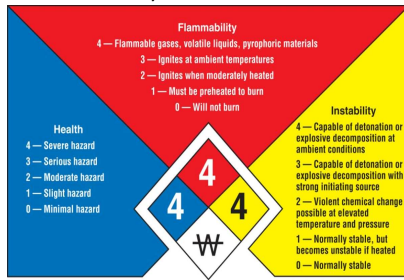
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**NFPA 704 System for Fixed Facilities**

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**Clue #5: Written Resources**

- Shipping Papers
- SDS (Safety Data Sheets)
- ERG (Emergency Response Guidebook)
- NOISH Pocket Guide
- Inventory Records and Facility Documents



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## The Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)



- Aides in quickly identifying specific or generic habits
- Aides in protecting responders and general public
- **Does not** address all possible circumstances
- Designed for use at highway or railroad incidents
- Associated with open areas
- Limited value in fixed-facility locations or urban settings

*It is also available as a free APP*



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## A review of and changes to the 2016 ERG



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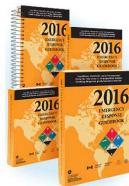
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## Other sections of note in the ERG

- Hazard Identification Numbers (Page 14 & 15)
- Pipeline Transportation (Page 20 thru 25)
- User Guide (Page 358 thru 367)
- BLEVE – Safety Precautions (Page 368 & 369)
- Criminal/Terrorist Section (Page 370 thru 373)
- IED Safe Standoff Distances (Page 374 375)
- Glossary (Page 376 thru 386)



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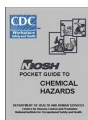
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## NIOSH Pocket Guide

Includes information on the following:

- Chemical Structures and Identification Codes
- Synonyms and Exposure Limits
- Chemical & Physical Properties
- Incompatibilities & Reactivity's
- Respirator Selection
- Signs & Symptoms of Exposure
- Target Organs and Emergency Treatment



Available as an APP for a fee



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## The Roman Numeral Pages

Explain how to use this book and contain the Tables

- **Table 2** - Personal Protection and Sanitation Codes
- **Table 3** - Symbols, Code Component, and Codes used for Respiratory Protection.
- **Table 4** - Selection of N-, R-, or P- series Particulate Respirators
- **Table 5** - Abbreviations of Exposure Routes, Symptoms, and Target Organs
- **Table 6** - Codes for First Aid Data

Materials are listed alphabetically



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A	Acetaldehyde		C	Formula: CH <sub>3</sub> CHO	CAS#: 75-07-0	RTECS#: AB1925000	IDLH: [Ca (2000 ppm)]	B
Conversion: 1 ppm = 1.80 mg/m <sup>3</sup>				[DOT: 1089 1.2]				
Synonyms/Trade Names: Acetic aldehyde, Ethanal, Ethyl aldehyde								
Exposure Limits: NIOSH REL: Ca See Appendix A See Appendix C (Aldehydes)				OSHA PEL: TWA 200 ppm (360 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )		Measurement Methods (see Table 1): NIOSH 2018, 2538, 3507 OSHA 68		
Physical Description: Colorless liquid or gas (above 69°F) with a pungent, fruity odor.								
Chemical & Physical Properties: MW: 44.1 BP: 69°F Sol: Miscible FLP: -35°F IP: 10.22 eV Sp-Gr: 0.79 VP: 740 mmHg FRZ: -190°F LEL: 60% LEL: 4.0% Class IA Flammable Liquid				Personal Protection/Sanitation (see Table 2): Skin: Prevent skin contact Eyes: Prevent eye contact Wash skin: When contaminated Remove: When wet (flame) Change: A/R Provide: Eyewash Quick drench		Respirator Recommendations (see Tables 3 and 4): NIOSH [SchaF Pd Pp/SaF Pd Pp/AScA Escape: Gmf/Ov/SchaF]		
Incompatibilities and Reactivities: Strong oxidizers, acids, bases, alcohols, ammonia & amines, phenols, ketones, HCN, H <sub>2</sub> S. [Note: Prolonged contact with air may cause formation of peroxides that may explode and burst containers, easily undergoes polymerization.]								
Exposure Routes, Symptoms, Target Organs (see Table 5): In: inh, ing, Con SY: Irrit eyes, nose, throat; eye, skin burns; dem; conj; cough; CNS depress; Irritated pulm edema; in animals: kidney, repro, terato effects; [can]c TO: Eyes, skin, resp sys, kidneys, CNS, repro sys [in animals: nasal cancer]						First Aid (see Table 6): Eyes: Irr. in med Skin: Water flush prompt Breath: Resp support Swallow: Medical attention in med		



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## DOT Chart 16

This chart affords a great deal of on the go information.




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**Clue #6: Senses**

**Vision is the safest of the five senses**

- Direct Visible Evidence
- Physical Actions
- Chemical Reactions
- Physical Signs and Symptoms of Exposure



**Don't forget "Common Sense"**

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**Clue #7: Monitoring and Detection Equipment**

- Can be used in determining the presence of hazardous materials and concentrations.
- Can be used to determine scope of the incident
- Effective use requires actual contact with the product and may be out of the scope for Awareness Level Personnel

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### The 4-Gas Meter

The Types of Sensors, the "Basics"



- O<sub>2</sub> Reads in percent
- LEL Reads in Percent (calibration gas)
- **"REMEMBER".. Percent of the LEL, not Percent in air**  
Conversion factors may be needed to be accurate
- H<sub>2</sub>S Reads in ppm
- CO Reads in ppm

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### Other Types of Meters

Single Gas (Product Specific)



CO, HCN, Ammonia, Chlorine

PID (Photo Ionization Detectors)



Generally uses a 10.6 lamp

There are many more types of metering devices on the market

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### Chemical Properties and Haz-Mat Behavior




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## Terms

**States of Matter:** Solid, Liquid, Gas (Compressed and Liquefied)

Gases can undergo a physical change due to changes in Heat, Temp., and Pressure

**Expansion Ratio:** Volume increase when a liquid changes to a gas

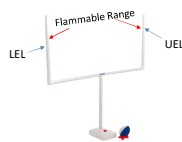
**Flammability:** Flash Point, Autoignition Temperature

**Flammable Range:**

Also called explosive or combustible range

**LEL:** Lower explosive limit

**UEL:** Upper explosive limit



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**Vapor Pressure:**

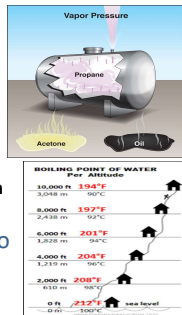
Tendency of a substance to evaporate

**Boiling Point:** Rate of evaporation

**BLEVE:** Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion

**Melting Point/Freezing Point/Sublimation**

All of these are directly related to atmospheric pressure



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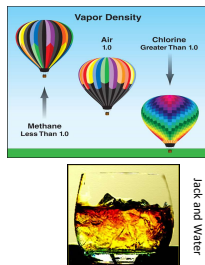
**Vapor Density**

In relation to air which has a value of 1

NIOSH refers to this as  $R_{gas}$

**Solubility/Miscibility** (In water)

Polar solvents have an attraction for water



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These actions are temperature dependent

**Specific Gravity:** The relation of a substance to water which has a value of 1

**Persistence:**  
How long will the product hang around

Has an impact on DECON and cleanup operations

**Reactivity:** Ability to undergo a chemical reaction with another material

**Polymerization:** A catalyst causes molecules to combine, sometimes rapidly.

**Inhibitors;** Products added to control the reaction

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Polymerization Incident

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Mild Reaction

Chemistry Experiment  
Chlorine (G) + Brake Fluid (L)

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### Violent Reaction




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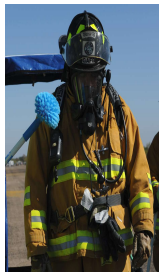
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### Decontamination

*The process of removing hazardous materials to prevent the spread of contaminants beyond a specific area and reduce contamination levels that are no longer harmful*




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### Types of DECON



**Wet:** Washing with water

**Dry:** Vacuuming, Brushing, Scraping, Using Sticky Tape



**Physical:** Hands on



**Chemical:** Changing the contaminant thru a chemical process

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## Decon Methods

**Emergency Decon:**  
Remove contaminants ASAP

**Technical Decon:**  
Planned and systematic



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## Mass Decon

**RAM**



**MDU**



All victims must be considered; Ambulatory, Non-Ambulatory, and Deceased



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### Massachusetts Chemical/Radiological/Biological Incident Response Activation Levels

*Statewide Mass Decontamination Response System*

<u>Level</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>State HM Response</u>
Mass Decon	I/C requests specific MDUs event (deployment not pre-planned)	Limited/Controlled	Tier 3
Mass Decon	1-2 District MDU's to scene & MDUs to <u>local</u> hospitals	<u>Moderate</u> ; single facility limited occupancy (office building)	Tier 3



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### Massachusetts Chemical/Radiological/Biological Incident Response Activation Levels

*Statewide Mass Decontamination Response System*

Level	Response	Situation	State HM Response
Mass Decon	5 - 7 MDUs to scene & hospitals in effected & surrounding fire districts covered by MDUs	<u>Major</u> : Shopping Mall, Public Arena or multiple buildings	Tier 5
Mass Decon	Up to 17 District MDUs to scene. Most hospitals in the state covered by MDUs	<u>Extreme</u> : Wide geographic area or major event	Tier 5



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### Special Considerations

Evidence



Canines



Police



Suspects





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### Equipment and tools may also need Decon






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## Determine the Effectiveness of Decon Operations




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Now, lets do an exercise.

Using the ERG, NIOSH Pocket Guide, and any other reference that you may have, see if you can identify the type of cargo the truck is carrying in the following slide.

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Photo by Roland LaRoche

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This is what's in the truck



Titan Compressed Natural Gas Truck



4 Composite Cylinders  
43 1/2 inches in Diameter  
38 1/2 feet long

CNG Capacity of 8,886 Standard  
Cubic Feet.  
Liquid capacity of 2,219 gallons

Portable Pipelines for First Responders

Chris Christopoulos, Jr.



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What do you think you  
will see when you open  
the rear doors of this  
truck



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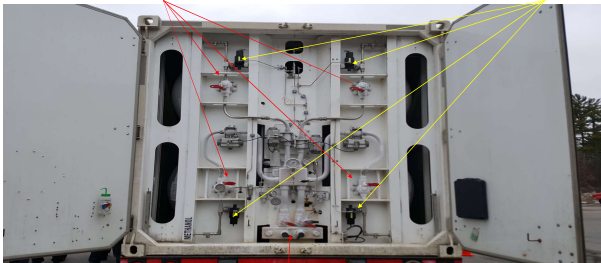
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This is what's in the back

SHUTOFFS AT EACH CYLINDER

PRESSURE RELIEF DEVICES



Load/offload connections

Photo by Roland LaRoche



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**Clues**

Vents

Product Name

Placard

Emergency Shutoff

Don't forget the shipping papers

Photo by Roland LaRoche

Source: Portable Pipelines for First Responders - Chris Christopoulos, Jr.

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This was a short review of the following program;

**Street Smart Portable Pipelines**

**Chris Christopoulos, Jr.**

Watch for class scheduling on the Academy's Web Site

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## ETHANOL

In Massachusetts:

2-3 times a week 6+ Million Gallons Transported by Rail-Barge-Truck

Ethanol Trains Impact 88 Massachusetts Communities

2017 Production in the United States- 14,903 billion gallons

Now the largest volume of hazardous materials shipped by rail

Source: MassDEP, MassDFS, US DOE

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## What is Ethanol?

A colorless volatile flammable liquid  $C_2H_5OH$  that is the intoxicating agent in liquors and is also used as a solvent and in fuels – also called *ethyl alcohol*, *grain alcohol*

Source: Merriam-Webster.com



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## What is Denatured Ethanol?

Ethanol (alcohol), with additives such as gasoline, makes it unsuitable for drinking

Used as gasoline additive



Source: Ecolink.com



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## Chemical Properties Comparison

### Gasoline

- Vapor Density: 3.0 to 4.0

*Gasoline vapors seek low levels/remain close to the ground*

- Specific Gravity: 0.72 – 0.76

*Will float on top of water*

### Ethanol

- Vapor Density: 1.59

*Ethanol vapors seek low levels/remain close to the ground*

- Specific Gravity: 0.79

*Lighter than water*

**Thoroughly mix with water**

Source: EERCA/IAFC/RFA



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## Chemical Properties Comparison

### Gasoline

- Flammable Material
- Motor Fuel
- Hydrocarbon
- Flashpoint -45°F
- Flammable Range  
1.4% to 7.6%

### Ethanol

- Flammable Material
- Motor Fuel
- Polar Solvent
- Flash Point 55°F
- Flammable Range  
3.3% to 19%



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Source: EERCA/IAFC/RFA

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## Ethanol's Greatest Hazards

- Its Flammable
- Transloading Operations
  - Conducts Electricity
  - Electrocution Hazard
  - Ignition Sources
  - Static Electricity



Source: MassDEP/MassDFS



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## A Unit Train, Palmer Mass.



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## Water Solubility Ethanol

- Ethanol is miscible in water, soluble at any concentration www.differencebetween.net

- Dilution may not be the solution  
1000 gallons of Ethanol needs 4000 to 5000 gallons of water to dilute

Where does the runoff go?  
Where does burn-off go?



Source: EERCA/IAFC/RFA



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## Ethanol (A Polar Solvent)

What is a polar solvent? Alcohol - Acetone - MEK

In simple terms, it mixes with the most popular solvent, **WATER**



Source: MassDFS



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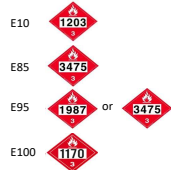
## Common Ethanol Blended Fuels

- 3-Common Ethanol Blended Fuels

- E-10 (Most Common)
- E-85
- E-95

- Pure Ethanol

- E-100



Source: EERCA/IAFC/RFA



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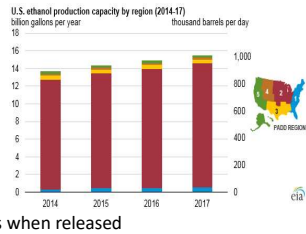
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## The Risks

- The fastest growing commodity in transportation
- Polar Flammable Liquid
- Requires unusual firefighting equipment and tactics
- Unique environmental impacts when released



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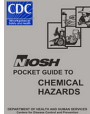
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## Hazard & Risk Assessment



Source: EERCA/IAFC/RFA



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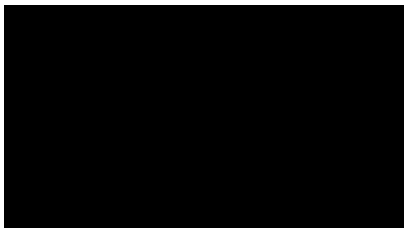
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## Fire Control & Vapor Suppression

### ➤ AR-AFFF

- Alcohol Resistant Aqueous Film Forming Foams

### ➤ Dry Chemical

- Foam Compatibility

**You'll need a lot of it!**



Source: MassDER/MassDFS



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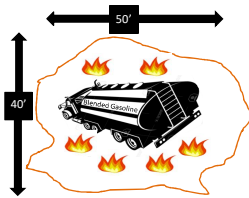
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## Road Tanker Spill – Ignited Hydrocarbons

Extinguish - minimum 15 minutes resources AFFF  
or AR-AFFF @ 0.10 gpm/sq. ft.



AREA	x	RATE	=	GPM of Solution
2000		0.1 assume worst case		200 gpm
GPM	x	%CON.	=	GPM of Concentrate
200		.03		6 gpm
GPM	x	%Water	=	GPM of Water
200		.97		194 gpm
GPM	x	TIME	=	TOTAL GAL CONC.
6		15		90 gal
GPM	x	TIME	=	TOTAL GAL WATER
194 gpm		15		2,775 gal

Source: Cottrell Associates



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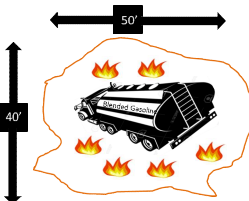
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## Road Tanker Spills - Ignited Alcohol

Extinguish - minimum 15 minutes resources  
AR-AFFF @ 0.20 gpm/sq. ft.



		E98		E95	
AREA	x	RATE	=	GPM of Solution	
2000		.2 assume worst case		400 gpm	
GPM	x	%CON.	=	GPM of Concentrate	
400		.03		12 gpm	
GPM	x	%Water	=	GPM of Water	
400		.97		388 gpm	
GPM	x	TIME	=	TOTAL GAL CONC.	
12		15		180 gal	
GPM	x	TIME	=	TOTAL GAL WATER	
388		15		5820 gal	

Source: Cottrell Associates



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### Liquid Methanol Tanker Truck Fire



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### Ethanol Derailment, Providence RI, 3/8/2017



Photos by Pat Reynolds

No product leaking but a container damage assessment must be completed

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## Fentanyl

- Synthetic opioid
- Introduced to the medical world as an intravenous analgesic drug in 1959
- The DEA discovers the first domestically produced illicit Fentanyl in 1990's
- 50-100 times more potent than morphine
- 30-50 times more potent than heroin
- Carfentanil (structurally related to fentanyl), is up to 10,000 times more potent than morphine



Source: US DOJ Drug Enforcement Administration, CDC

This amount can kill you

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## Fentanyl related products have been found in;



Powders



Pill



Capsule

Liquid



Blotter Paper

Source: US DOJ Drug Enforcement Administration, CDC

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### Recommendations for First Responders

**Remember:** **Fentanyl** related substances enter the body by all of the following means;

- Oral ingestion
- Contact with mucous membranes
- Inhalation
- Transdermal transmission (through the skin)

**Accidental exposure by first responders is a real danger**



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Source: US DOJ Drug Enforcement Administration, CDC

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**Fentanyl** can be handled safely

- Use your training
- Use the proper equipment
- Include hazard recognition
- Use proper PPE

Canines are also at risk from exposure to **Fentanyl**



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Source: US DOJ Drug Enforcement Administration, CDC

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## Exposed to Fentanyl and Fentanyl-related products

### ➤ Symptoms of exposure;

- Drowsiness, disorientation
- Sedation, pinpoint pupils, skin rash
- Clammy skin, respiratory depression or arrest

➤ Seek medical attention immediately. These substances can be fast acting.



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## Recommendations if exposed/contaminated by Fentanyl and Fentanyl related materials

- Inhalation; move victim to fresh air
- Ingestion; rinse eyes and mouth with cool water
- Skin contact; wash area immediately with soap and water

“Do **NOT** use hand sanitizers”



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Source: US DOJ Drug Enforcement Administration, CDC

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## Antidote to **Fentanyl** and Opioid Overdoses

**NALOXONE** is an antidote for opioid overdose



**Immediately administering naloxone can reverse an opioid overdose.**



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Source: US DOJ Drug Enforcement Administration, CDC

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Is that white powder **Fentanyl**, heroine, or explosives?

Consider a response from the State Haz-Mat Team.

They bring monitoring/identification equipment as well as expertise on PPE and Decontamination.

**Regional State Haz-Mat Dispatch at 1-877-385-0822**

**Situational awareness will help to keep you safe.**



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### Massachusetts Hazmat/CBRNE Incident Response Activation Levels

<u>Tier Response</u>	→	<u>Situation</u>
1- TOMs Unit (ORU Optional) (5 Techs) *Modified Tier 1	→	Hazard & Risk Assessment or Suspicious Substance Investigation *Air Monitoring at Fire Scenes
2- TOMs Unit & ORU (1/2 the Team)	→	Short Term Entry Operation
3- TOMs Unit & ORU(s) (Full Team)	→	Long Term and/or <u>Immediate Life Safety Risk</u>
4- Multi-Team	→	Major Release or Extended Operation
5- Full Hazmat System, plus Bomb Squad and CST activated	→	WMD or Mass Casualty Event

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### Butane Hash Oil (BHO)

Butane Hash Oil (BHO) or Butane Honey Oil (BHO) is an extremely potent concentrate popularly consumed for dabbing and other vaporization methods

Cannabinoids are drawn out of the plant through butane extraction.

Source: leafly.com

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### Butane Hash Oil

#### The problem for First Responders

Flammable butane gas dissolves the THC resin and concentrates it when the butane boils off.

Flammable vapors accumulate low to the ground and find an ignition source.

Source: Todd Burton, Fire Engineering

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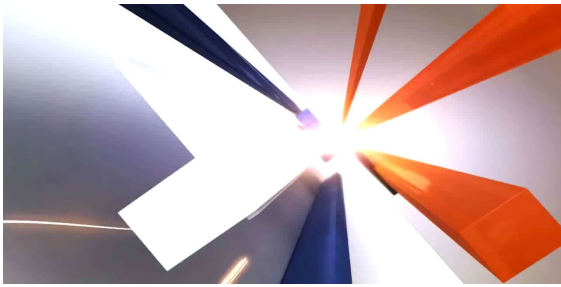
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## Butane

### Flammable Gas

Definition: Colorless gas with a gasoline like or natural gas odor.  
Shipped as a liquefied compressed gas. Liquid below 31°F

Chemical Formula:  $C_4H_{10}$

Specific Gravity: 0.6 (Liquid at 31°F)

Vapor Density (RGasD): 2.11



Source: NIOSH Pocket Guide



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## Butane

LEL: 1.6%

UEL: 8.4%

Expansion Ratio: 233:1

**Is expansion Ratio a concern?**

**Why?**



Source: NIOSH Pocket Guide



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## Butane Hash Oil

The problem; flammable vapors accumulate low to the ground and find an ignition source.

First responders must not only deal with the flammability issues, but medical issues of victims.



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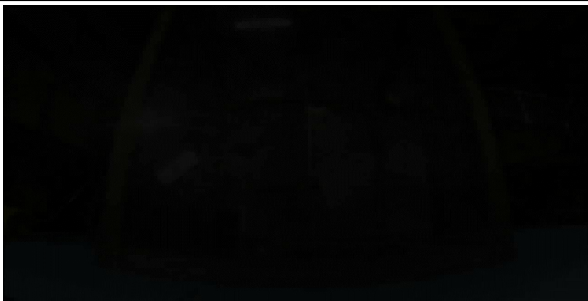
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## Butane Hash Oil

### Safety Considerations

If you find yourself at an incident involving Hash Oil;

- Always wear your PPE
- Use a meter to monitor for LEL



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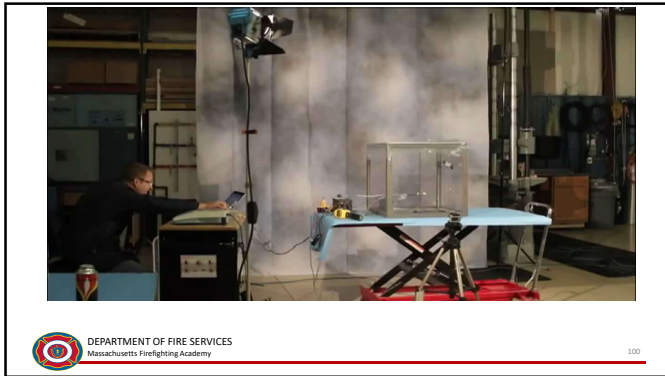
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With the "Legalization" of Marijuana in Massachusetts,  
will this problem be showing up here like it did in  
Colorado?

**Situational awareness and your training will  
help keep you safe.**

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## Crude Oil



Petroleum that comes from the ground, before refining. Source: Dictionary.com

### Bakken Crude Oil

Comes from fracking and horizontal drilling deep in Bakken shale

### Bakken Sweet Crude

A light crude, generally used as feed stock and low in hydrogen sulfide

Source: CombatSupportProducts.com

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### The difference between the following;

**Petroleum Products** are produced from the processing of crude oil and other liquids at petroleum refineries.

**Crude oil** is a mixture of hydrocarbons that exist as a liquid in underground geologic formations and remains a liquid when brought to the surface.

Crude oil is divided into three categories; Light, Medium, or Heavy.

❖ **Light Crude** is **highly volatile** and highly soluble in water.

❖ **Heavy Crude** is a **highly viscous** semi solid and is insoluble in water.

**Petroleum** is a broad category that includes both crude oil and petroleum products. The term oil and petroleum are often used interchangeably.



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Source: [www.dfs.gov](http://www.dfs.gov), MASS DEP

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### Physical properties, ethanol, gasoline and light crude

Property	Ethanol	Gasoline	B. Crude
V. Pressure (mm Hg)	2.3	360	280-360
Flash Point	55 (F)	-50 (F)	-20 (F)
Fuel/air % Ignition	3 – 19%	1 – 8%	+/- 8%
Ignition Temp. (F)	850	495	482
Water Miscible	YES	NO	NO
Safe with water ratio	4 – 5:1	NO	NO
Electrical Conductor	YES	NO	NO
Heat Value (BTU) +/-	11,500	<19,000	<20,000
Smoke Free	YES	NO	NO



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Source: [CombustionProducts.com](http://CombustionProducts.com)

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Crude oil with high **sulfur content** is referred to as “sour”, while oil with low sulfur content is referred to as “sweet”.

**Bakken Crude** is generally considered a light-weight sweet petroleum crude and therefore may contain flammable gasses in solution that raise the vapor pressure, lower the flash point, and initial boiling point of the material.

**Flammability** is the greatest hazard associated with crude oil in a rail incident.



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Source: MassDEP

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In the event of a spill or leak;

- Eliminate ignition sources. Bond and ground when transferring the product.
- Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements, or other confined areas.
- Use vapor suppressing foam to reduce vapors. (Water may not prevent ignition).
- Dike far ahead of the spill.



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Source: MassDEP

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- Isolate the area and consider evacuations
- Determine the concentrations of any flammable or toxic vapors using air monitoring instruments.
- Evaluate the need for air monitoring specialists (State Haz-Mat).
- Ensure adequate foam supplies and equipment.



Watch for High Hazard Flammable Liquid Training on the Academy's Web Site



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Source: MassDEP

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## Chemical Suicides



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## History

- The Massachusetts Haz-Mat System has responded to many Hydrogen Sulfide ( $H_2S$ ), Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) Chemical Suicide Incidents both in vehicles as well as structures.
- In most cases, the apparent intention is the suicide of a single individual.
- In most cases warning signs have been posted for the protection of others, including first responders.



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## Indications of a Chemical Suicide

- There may be warning signs placed to alert others.
- With regard to suicide in vehicles, be alert to signs being hidden or obscured by condensation, frost, snow or vapors produced by the reaction.
- Interview anyone who may have approached the scene to learn what they saw or smelled.
  - ❖ A "rotten egg" type odor would indicate hydrogen sulfide.
  - ❖ An almond odor is typical of cyanide compounds.



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## Examples of posted signage at actual incidents



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Look for indications of a chemical reaction




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Typically you will find containers of household chemicals, pails, buckets, pots or other containers where the chemicals were mixed.




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## WARNING

*Caution should be taken to avoid assuming that every chemical suicide is from Hydrogen Sulfide.*

### Other potential chemicals used in suicides;

- Arsine
- Cyanide
- Phosphine
- Chlorine
- Phosgene
- Carbon Monoxide
- And yes, even Helium



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### What's been seen in Massachusetts

- Vehicle interior 6-12 hours after mix was 180 ppm of H<sub>2</sub>S (Amherst)
- Apartment interior 4 hours after mix and vent (Near Container) was 50ppm (N.Hampton)
- Hydrogen Sulfide is a very persistent gas with an IDLH of 100ppm

*Viable victims have been found due to "larger" area environments*

### Call Haz-Mat and Law Enforcement

*Regional State Haz-Mat Dispatch at 1-877-385-0822*



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## Illicit Laboratory's

- Drug/Meth/Hash Oil
- Explosives
- Chemical, Biological Weapons
- Others that are not within the scope of this refresher training; GHB, MDMA (Ecstasy)

There is not enough time in this refresher to cover all of the types of labs out there but we will share clues.



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### How many of these labs are discovered

- Fires
- EMS Calls
- Complaints of; Odors, Trash/waste, Trespassers
- Law Enforcement
- Burn Victims.



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### External Illicit Lab Indicators

- Bars or covers on windows
- Chemical odors/vapors clouds, abnormal accumulation of trash
- Dead animals/birds, and vegetation in the vicinity
- Security;
  - Extra Locks
  - Fortified doors
  - Guards (dogs, snakes, humans)
  - Surveillance cameras



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### Does this look like it belongs here



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What kind of lab is it?




Explosive



Bacterial Agent



Chemical



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New Generation of Meth Lab

*The "One Pot/Shake and Bake" Method*

Some cooks will place the container outdoors, abandon it, and return later to determine if it was a successful cook.



First Responders must use **CAUTION**



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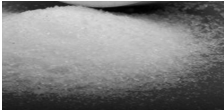
Can you identify these products?



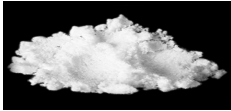
Heroin




Recrystallized Meth



TATP



HMTP



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**Situational awareness,  
training, and common sense is  
the key to your safety and  
healthy longevity**



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