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## FGAM Objective

Fireground air monitoring teams provide a consistent procedure for air monitoring of toxic products of combustion at fires containing chemicals or bulk storage of plastics and foams. The response also applies to incidents involving persistent heavy smoke conditions impacting at risk populations that cannot be evacuated in a timely manner.



### Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division

P. O. Box 1025 • 1 State Road  
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## Fireground Air Monitoring Response

Fireground Air Monitoring response control centers will, when available, identify chemicals in storage as applicable.

Requested response for fireground air monitoring will be an enhanced Tier 1.

- 7 hazmat technicians
- 1 TOMs unit or squad
- 1 tactical support

The team leader may request additional personnel for larger areas of operation.

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## Fireground Air Monitoring (FGAM)



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Fireground Air Monitoring is a capability of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division. The response includes technicians trained to provide air monitoring both inside and outside the fireground. The teams can also perform remote air monitoring in neighborhoods close to the incident, giving the incident commander real-time hazard data to protect the public against potentially harmful products of combustion.



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**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES**

Hazardous Materials Emergency  
Response Division

## FGAM Background

Fireground air monitoring (FGAM) is necessary for fires involving structures or vessels containing chemicals, bulk storage of plastics and foams and/or persistent heavy smoke conditions that pose a significant threat to the public and emergency responders. FGAM is particularly important when populations cannot be evacuated in a timely manner.

District hazmat teams can monitor the air and detect toxic products of combustion posing immediate health risks. The teams can assist incident commanders with recommendations and risk information to aid in the protection of firefighters and the public.

Fireground air monitoring cannot rule out the presence of every potentially hazardous material. The FGAM process is an effort to determine primary immediate hazards of combustible vapors and common organic chemicals and the extent to which they are a hazard to responders and the public. Additional processes and equipment may be necessary to identify materials and complete a hazard and risk assessment.

## Activation Process

1. The response for Fireground Air Monitoring is initiated by a local incident commander through the local fire department to the **HazMat Control Center** at 877-385-0822.
2. The request for activation of fireground air monitoring also initiates an automatic activation of a corresponding tier level response of a district hazmat team.
3. The Hazmat Control Center Operator will take the following actions:
  - Initiate the primary paging system.
  - The message transmitted shall be in the following form: Fireground Air Monitoring requested at (address of incident), team assembly point at (location of assembly point).
  - The dispatch of the appropriate assigned hazmat vehicles will be confirmed.



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