



Worcester Fire Department



Hazardous Materials Response



Worcester Fire Department

Planning



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Planning



Dedicated SARA Officer

- Maintains CAMEO Database for all Tier II facilities
- Coordinates Inspections of facilities
- Works on Pre-Plans with facility
- Educates line companies on hazards within their response area
- Liaison to Emergency Management

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Planning



- Fire prevention works closely with all businesses on their plans review
 - Ensures code compliance
 - Ensures facilities have appropriate fire suppression systems
 - Ensures facilities have appropriate detection systems
 - Ensures facilities have appropriate signage and markings

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Planning



- Fire Prevention Licensing Division ensures facilities are permitted and licensed properly.
- Inspect storage and processes that require permits or licenses

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Training



- All Worcester Firefighters trained to the operational responder level
- Annual refresher to maintain skills and knowledge
- Individual company drills
- Companies visit facilities and conduct pre-planning

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Training



- Over 20 Worcester firefighters are trained to the technician level
- 16 are members of the State Response Team
- They receive at least 88 hours of advanced training annually
- They respond to incidents across the state
- The team assists Training Division with department annual refresher

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Equipment



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Equipment

Worcester Fire Department Equipment Includes:

- **4 gas meters**
- **5 gas meters**
- **Single gas meters (ammonia, chlorine)**
- **PID Meters**
- **Level B & C PPE**
- **Powered air purifying respirators**
- **Leak control supplies**
- **Over pack Drums**

If a level A entry is required or incident is beyond our metering or equipment limitations the State Haz-Mat Team is called in

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Response



Incidents can range from single company responses to activation of the full State Haz-Mat Team



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Response

- 16 Hazardous Materials Technicians spread throughout groups and staff positions.
- IC will special call for a technician for advice.
- Strong relationship with state hazardous materials team

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Response



- Use of the Incident Command System is Imperative for Haz-Mat Response
- Worcester Fire remains Incident Command for any incident in the city
- Haz-Mat team falls into IC system as the haz-mat branch

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Concerns & Challenges

- Facilities that are not in compliance with reporting regulations.
- Number of facilities increasing while Fire Department staff is decreasing.
- Facilities have reduced their own health and safety divisions in the last several years. They are providing less oversight to their own facilities
- Time and Expertise– Comprehensive planning and training is extremely time consuming and technical. The landscape is always changing and it is difficult to keep up with it.
- Cost – The cost of detection equipment and PPE is very expensive. State team is a great resource but we need to maintain capability at the local level as well.