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## JHIRT Goals

- In concert with the bomb technician, identify perimeters and control zones for chemical, biological and/or radiological incidents;
- Assess the release or potential release of a chemical and or biological material;
- Characterize hazards of known or unknown materials;
- Provide advice for appropriate PPE for on-scene personnel;
- Provide advice for decontamination methods for on-scene personnel;
- Provide atmospheric hazard assessment and monitoring for bomb squad personnel during operations;
- Perform rescue of victims in a contaminated environment;
- Evaluate options for retrieval and or packing of evidence;
- Evaluate the need for additional HazMat team response;
- Develop a site safety plan; and
- Initiate the Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team (CLET).
- Work in a unified command environment.

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## Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division

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Response Division  
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## Joint Hazardous Incident Response Team (JHIRT)



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JHIRT is a team within the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services' Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division. Trained technicians can provide technical or operational assistance in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad to incidents involving reactive or energetic materials that may pose a risk of harm to the public or responders.



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**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES**  
Hazardous Materials Emergency  
Response Division

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## Joint Hazard Incident Response Team (JHIRT)

### Scope of Duties

The JHIRT members act as subject matter experts. The JHIRT response component of the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Emergency Response Division is not intended to replace a HazMat team. They are expected to assess the hazardous environment and to work in conjunction with the on scene bomb technician.

They can be called for suspicious powder calls and possible clandestine laboratories.

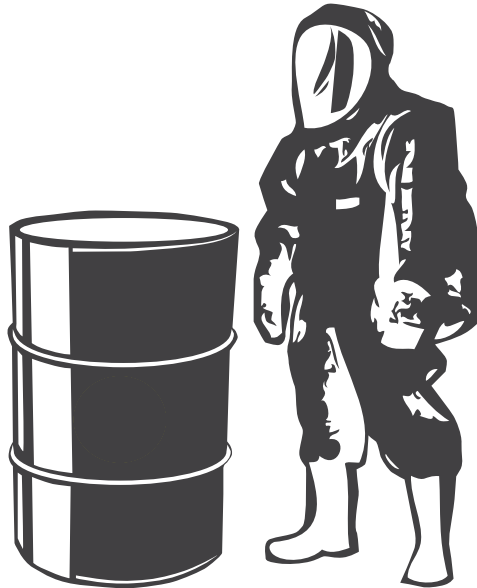
### Training

The JHIRT initiative has seen much of its success by combining the knowledge, equipment and willingness of both the bomb technicians and the hazardous material technicians. The success of this program has been evident at several incidents and is viewed as a national model. Training includes but is not limited to:

- Equipment and Capability Review
- Scene Management
- Chemistry Review / Lab Recognition
- Complex Lab Scenario Exercises
- Dispersal Devices

## Selection Process

- A team including members of both the HazMat Division and the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad conducts the selection process.
- Applicants must be current hazmat technicians on state/district teams.
- Selected interviewees are required to demonstrate agility, dexterity and endurance in ballistic protective equipment and possess a strong knowledge base using and interpreting data from metering devices.



## Activation Process

- The need for a JHIRT response is initially decided upon by the local incident commander with advice from the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad or hazmat technicians at the scene.
- The JHIRT can be requested for suspicious powder calls, to assess possible clandestine laboratory situations, and to initiate the multi-agency Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team (CLET).
- Once it is determined that a JHIRT response capability is needed, the local incident commander contacts the HazMat Control Center by calling 877-385-0822.

While on scene, the JHIRT members consult with the incident commander to determine if a more robust hazardous materials response is recommended.

