
MIRT Mission

The MIRT mission is to provide intelligence, reconnaissance, and mitigation capabilities for incidents occurring in the maritime environment. The development of the MIRT expands the HazMat teams' capability for accomplishing chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) mitigation missions beyond the Massachusetts shoreline. The MIRT remains focused on building strong relationships and participating in challenging training scenarios with partner agencies in order to be ever ready to respond. With over 1,500 miles of shoreline falling within the response regions of the District Hazmat Teams, the need to provide protection to oceangoing commerce, recreation, the environment, and coastal communities is an identified requirement of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division.

Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division

P. O. Box 1025 • 1 State Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775

978-567-3150

www.mass.gov/dfs

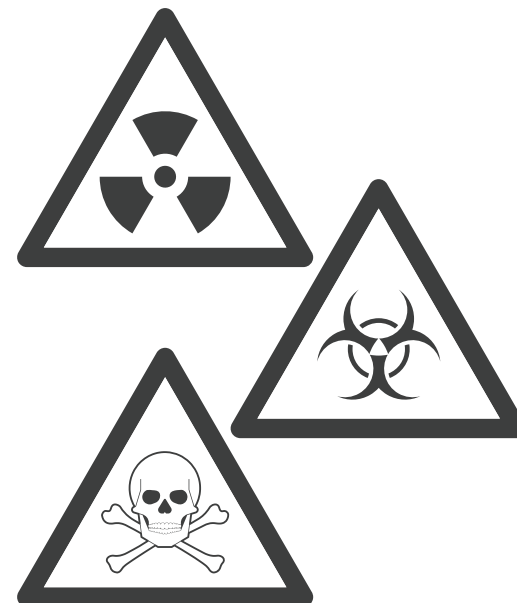


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Maritime Incident Response Team (MIRT)



The MIRT is a team within the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services' Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division. It is comprised of technicians trained to provide reconnaissance and mitigation of shipboard hazardous materials occurring either at sea or in port.



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

Hazardous Materials Emergency
Response Division

MIRT Training

Boarding and Embarking Vessels

Focuses on the transition from a boat to shipboard platform utilizing gangways, Jacob's ladders, or other vessel specific boarding devices. Each incident provides unique challenges such as weather and required level of personal protective equipment (PPE). As the MIRT does not have its own maritime vessels, relationships must be made with partnering agencies and opportunities to exercise these tasks must be sought. The goal is to achieve a robust understanding of the duties, responsibilities, and capabilities in responding to these incidents.

Ship Systems

Focuses on shipboard specific systems including communications, maritime terminology, ventilation, stability, engineering and equipment, and marking and safety systems.

Maritime Confined Space Rescue and Hauling Training

Due to the dynamic environment, physical stressors, and confined spaces that the MIRT operate under, training focuses on self-rescue and rapid intervention techniques.

Water Survival Training

There is an annual water survival training that addresses man overboard conditions.

Activation Process

1. The response of the Maritime Incident Response Team 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 the Maritime Team will also initiate 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;
 - Transmit message in the following format: Maritime Team, Level (limited or full), Incident Type (shipboard, container ship), at (address of incident), team assembly point at (location of assembly point).
 - Confirm dispatch of the appropriate assigned hazmat vehicles.

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Activation Levels

LIMITED Response

Consists of the activation of 10 MIRT members, plus 1 maritime equipped ORU (Operational Response Unit), along with the activation of a Tier 1 or Tier 2 response of the closest district hazmat team and assigned vehicles to provide a land-based response to the maritime incident.

FULL Response

Consists of the activation of 20 MIRT members, (a full team activation), plus 2 maritime equipped ORUs, along with a minimum activation of a Tier 3 response from the closest district hazmat team. The district team will provide a land-based response to the maritime incident.

