Worcester Fire Department

Hazardous Materials Response
Worcester Fire Department

Planning
Worcester Fire Department

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
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
Worcester Fire Department 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
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.