

Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures
Waste and Spill Site Mitigation
306.02
Rev 11-08-05

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the mitigation of incidents involving hazardous materials including unauthorized discharge, accidental release and illegal disposal as well as the remediation of known hazardous waste sites and hazardous material facility closures.

PROCEDURE

Fire Prevention staff should utilize all available resources to ensure proper closure of incidents which involve the release of hazardous materials. The primary concern for inspectors dealing with such incidents is personal and public safety. Once all measures have been taken to insure personal and public safety, the inspector may begin the process of site remediation.

The primary enforcement tool Inspectors utilize is the International Fire Code, Chapter 27, 2003 Edition. However, additional laws both state and federal are available to aid Inspectors in the remediation of hazardous materials incidents.

The Tempe Police Department has detectives assigned to assist Fire Inspectors with hazardous materials incidents which may result in criminal prosecution. Additionally, prosecutors from the City of Tempe as well as the State Attorney General's office are assigned to prosecute those cases.

If technical assistance is needed such as determining chemical type or disposal method, Fire Inspectors may request assistance from the Tempe Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team, the City's Environmental Service's Division, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality or Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Due to the high costs associated with hazardous waste disposal and spill site remediation, Fire Inspectors shall try to avoid incurring costs to the city for such clean-ups. If it becomes necessary to authorize a hazardous waste clean-up and disposal, the Fire Inspector shall utilize the services of the city's contract provider. If clean-up costs are incurred by the city, Fire Inspectors are to pursue cost recovery through voluntary reimbursement, or civil/criminal court ordered restitution.

For additional information on hazardous material facility closures, refer to the applicable sections of the International Fire Code, 2003 Edition. The Department's restitution/reimbursement form is used to aid in cost recovery. A completed form should be forwarded to the City Prosecutor for all hazardous material incidents which involve criminal prosecution. For those which the department seeks voluntary reimbursement of costs associated with our response to hazardous material spills, a completed copy is to be provided to the responsible party. A copy of all completed restitution/reimbursement forms shall be retained by the Fire Prevention and Public Safety Education Division.