



State of Queensland Chemical/HAZMAT Response Plan

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PREFACE

1. The State of Queensland Chemical/HAZMAT Response Plan (Chemical/HAZMAT Plan) is an annex to the State of Queensland Multi-Agency Response Plan to CBR incidents (State CBR Plan).
2. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is the lead Chemical/HAZMAT response agency in Queensland.

Aim

3. The aim of the Chemical/HAZMAT plan is to outline the responsibilities and arrangements for the preparedness and initial management of chemical/HAZMAT incidents, whether the result of accidental or deliberate origin.

Objectives and Principles

4. The objectives and principles of the Chemical/HAZMAT Plan are described in the objectives and principles of the State CBR plan.

Application and activation

5. The Chemical/HAZMAT Plan applies to Queensland government agencies as identified in the Plan and is supported by agency specific plans, procedures and protocols that detail their roles and responsibilities.
6. In cases of incidents involving deliberate origins, the QPS will decide whether the incident warrants a declaration requiring the incident be coordinated under the State CBR Plan. In such cases the Chemical/HAZMAT Plan becomes subordinate to the State CBR Plan and is used only in the direct management of the Chemical/HAZMAT Plan component of the incident.

Authority

7. The Chemical/Hazmat Plan is noted by the Queensland Counter Terrorism Committee (QCTC).

Authorisation under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*

The State CBR Plan is a threat specific plan of the SDMP and is authorised under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Assistant Commissioner
Queensland Police Service
Executive Officer Queensland Disaster Management Committee

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

Governance and coordination

8. The Chemical/HAZMAT Plan is coordinated through the Queensland State CBRN committee.

Agency responsibilities

9. Depending on whether the release is accidental or deliberate will impact on whether an agency will have a lead and/or support role.
10. Each agency has specific roles during the management of a Chemical/HAZMAT incident and is responsible for the safety, protection, training and management of its own personnel.
11. Agency responsibilities have been generally described in the State CBR Plan. Where there is a need to reinforce or provide information about responsibilities specific to the Chemical/HAZMAT Plan they are included.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

- The QFES is the lead agency for the implementation of the State of Queensland Chemical/HAZMAT Response Plan.
- Specific responsibilities also include:
 - To act as the Chemical/HAZMAT combat agency;
 - Identify, contain and mitigate the hazard;
 - Identify and maintain Chemical/HAZMAT operating zones for the safety of personnel including those of other agencies;
 - Identify and maintain Chemical/HAZMAT operating zones for the safety of personnel including those of other agencies;
 - Rescue and decontamination of persons including those who are not fully ambulant and are known to be contaminated;
 - Assist in off-site decontamination where possible;
 - Engage with the media in liaison with the Police Forward Commander (PFC);
 - Provide expert advice to responding Agencies through the Research and Scientific Branch. It may include on-site detection and identification, sample management, hazard prediction to support implementation of control zones and public protection strategies; and
 - Provide Chemical/HAZMAT assistance to other responding agencies where biological or radiological hazards are present.

Queensland Police Service (QPS)

12. The QPS is responsible for security issues for maintaining public order under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld)*. The QPS also has the power to invoke the provisions of the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 (Qld)* (PSPA) that provides broad additional powers during specific emergencies. Its responsibilities also include:
 - Render safe explosive devices;
 - Establishing evacuee registration, and victim registration;
 - Control entry/egress points from the cold zone and outer cordon;
 - Staging and marshalling areas off-site for supporting agencies and resources;
 - Coordination of public protection strategies; and
 - Evidence security where criminal or negligence origins evident.
13. Where a CBR incident results from terrorist activity security aspects are managed by the QPS in line with the QCTP and the NCTP.
14. QPS is the controlling and coordinating authority across all agencies when the incident is the result of terrorist or criminal action and/or in circumstances where a CBR emergency is declared under the provisions of the *PSPA*. In this capacity QPS maintains plans and capabilities for the control and coordination of the incident and the coordination of response agencies.

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)

15. The QAS is responsible for:
 - On-site medical care; and
 - Establishment of casualty collection, initial triage, treatment and transport areas in the cold zone.

Queensland Health

16. Under the provisions of the *Public Health Act 2005*, Queensland Health is responsible for preventing, controlling and reducing risks to public health and responding to public health emergencies. Authorised persons are appointed under the Act who have the necessary powers to take any action required to remove or reduce the public health risk.
17. In addition, Queensland Health provides:
 - Public health advice and direction;
 - Advice on the clinical and medical management of casualties;
 - Advice about management of radiological or biological hazards where present;
 - Hospital or other health facility based multi-casualty response as required;
 - On-site medical teams;
 - Off-site laboratory analysis of hazardous materials, including chemical agents;
 - Advice on decontamination; and
 - Access to specific pharmaceuticals for use in chemical/hazmat emergency situations.

Department of Environment and Science

18. DES is the lead agency for administering the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
19. The Act provides for the protection of the environment from the effects of contaminants of all kinds and includes powers to investigate and remediate land that may be contaminated as a consequence of a CBR incident.

20. The Department provides an Incident Response Unit that coordinates an all-hours incident response service to provide expert assessment and advice on:
- impacts and potential harm of incidents on environmental values;
 - priorities for protection of environmental values;
 - contaminant containment and treatment measures;
 - environmental harm mitigation measures;
 - clean-up measures for environments and wildlife; and
 - transport and disposal of wastes and contaminated materials.

Resources Safety & Health Queensland (RSHQ)

21. RSHQ is responsible for safety advice in the areas of explosives, petroleum and gas through the:
- Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate duties as outlined under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*; and
 - Explosive Inspectorate as outlined in the *Explosives Act 1999*.
22. Under the *Explosives Act 1999* the Explosives Inspectorate provides advice on explosives issues and responds to explosives emergencies for all commercial explosives (excluding improvised explosive devices and military explosives ordnance) including high explosives, detonators, pyrotechnics, fireworks, ammunition, propellants, security sensitive ammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrate emulsions. Contact with Explosives Inspectors at any time should be made through Police Communications Centres or on the explosives 24/7 emergency response number 1300-739-868.
23. Under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, the Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate responds 24/7 and provides advice on incidents and emergencies relating to petroleum and gas (natural gas, LPG, and related flammable gases and all petroleum and gas related activities, along with geothermal and carbon storage drilling activities).

Office of Industrial Relations (OIR), Department of Education

24. WHSQ is responsible for administering the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.
25. WHSQ's goal is to foster safe and healthy work environments for all workers and other persons at Queensland workplaces, and the key outcome is a reduction in work-related death, injury and disease.
26. As part of this work, WHSQ provides advice on and undertakes compliance and enforcement activities associated with major hazard facilities, hazardous chemicals and occupational hygiene matters. This includes oversight of the safe use, handling, storage or generation of hazardous chemicals and the licensing of major hazards facilities such as refineries, chemical plants and large fuel and commercial storage sites

RESPONSE

27. Queensland's hazardous chemicals safety and health legislation puts in place a framework for the safe storage, transport and use of hazardous chemicals and hazardous materials to minimise the likelihood of adverse events.
28. The safe management of a Chemical/HAZMAT incident requires a multi-agency approach between the lead agency and the combatant agency or agencies as per the authority and responsibility under the relevant legislation, as identified in this Plan and the overarching CBR Plan.
29. Specific agency response procedures are not covered in this Plan, as this is the responsibility of individual agencies.

Operational arrangements

30. The relevant agencies will initially respond to the incident according to the manner in which the incident manifests. In many instances, QFES and QPS will respond first to a Chemical/HAZMAT incident, which may subsequently be identified as being a deliberate or terrorist act.
31. As soon as there is reasonable suspicion that a release, or the threatened release, of a Chemical/HAZMAT agent be the result of a terrorist or criminally instigated action, QPS will be the controlling and coordinating authority for the response across all agencies and the Queensland counter terrorism arrangements activated. Refer to the QCTP for the operational and coordination arrangements.
32. Chemical/HAZMAT incidents where there is no suspicion of a deliberate or threatened release are to be managed in accordance with the established arrangements.

RECOVERY

33. Determination of when the emergency response phase is completed will be at the discretion of the lead agency. The formal handover of the site or situation to the identified lead recovery agency is dependent on the nature of the incident and whether QPS seeks control of the site to undertake an investigation. The protocols described within the State of Queensland Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan are applied.
34. The State of Queensland *Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan* provides an agreed set of protocols for an efficient multi-agency approach to the recovery phase of a hazardous materials incident where it involves or has the potential to involve a recovery operation that is beyond the capability of a single state government agency.

REVIEW

35. The Chemical/HAZMAT Plan will be reviewed every two years such as an event, or sooner as identified by the State CBRN Committee.
36. Agencies should submit proposed amendments to the State CBRN Committee for evaluation; and following endorsement amendments to the Plan are to be issued to all stakeholders.