
Emergency Operations

Book:	3 Emergency Operations
Chapter	IX Hazardous Materials
Subject	3- Fumigation Emergencies
Code	3-IX-3
Revised	10/19/2003

3.01 Purpose

To establish guidelines for handling of emergency incidents involving fumigation material.

3.02 Policy

It shall be the policy of this department to follow these guidelines in the handling of emergency incidents involving fumigation material and to insure the safety of fire personnel and citizens.

3.03 Procedure

- a. Identify the fumigant involved. Many fumigants are highly toxic both through inhalation and skin absorption.
- b. Check placards and signs for information.
- c. Attempt to determine if a rescue problem exists.

3.04 Safety

- a. All personnel involved in firefighting or rescue operations shall be in full protective clothing including self-contained breathing apparatus.
- b. Evacuation of adjoining building and/or the surrounding area should be considered, especially down wind.
- c. Bystanders and curious observers should be kept back at a safe distance. Police assistance may be necessary.
- d. Never trust your sense of smell, since many fumigation gases may quickly paralyze your sense of smell.
- e. Any department personnel or bystander who begins to feel sick or notices any unusual feeling after exposure to fumigants shall receive medical attention.
- f. Personnel shall only enter the involved structure after it has been thoroughly ventilated.

3.05 Operations

- a. Ventilation of the structure should be done from the outside, with positive pressure ventilation techniques, upwind if possible.

- b. All personnel, operating in the structure should be in full protective clothing including SCBA. Engine operators in close proximity to the scene should be in SCBA.
- c. SCBA's shall be worn until the atmosphere in the structure and surrounding area is declared safe.
- d. Consider the use of Airline Mask for interior operations
- e. Have a dedicated Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) in place before beginning interior operations.
- f. Request that Communications notify the fumigation company and have a representative respond to the location.
- g. If the structure is on fire, it is important to be aware that poison gas cylinders used in the fumigation process, exposed to fire may explode.
- h. Fog streams may help to cool gas cylinders.