



National  
Operational  
Guidance

## Hazard

**Exposure to materials with acute  
health effects**



**NFCC**  
Fire Central  
Programme Office

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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## Hazard - Exposure to materials with acute health effects

### Knowledge and understanding

#### Hazard

Exposure to materials with acute health effects

#### Learning outcome

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



## Control measure - Substance identification: Toxic materials

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

#### Control measure element

Gather information and recognise symbols, labels and other marking to identify toxic materials

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- Classification and labelling of toxic materials
- Signage identifying the presence of toxic materials
- Triangulation of information to confirm toxic material

Refer to – Substance identification – Hazardous materials training specification

### Practical application



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Gather information and recognise symbols, labels and other marking to identify toxic materials

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Use signs, labels and markings to identify the presence of toxic materials
- Identify and interpret toxic materials incident information and where appropriate use detection equipment
- Use specialist advice to identify toxic materials information

Refer to – Substance identification – Hazardous materials training specification



## Control measure - Cordon controls: Toxic materials

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Recognise the involvement of toxic materials and implement appropriate cordons

Understand:

- The importance of initial cordon controls to reduce exposure and contamination
- Instances when evacuation or shelter-in-place are necessary
- Limits and levels of exposure guidance to assist with tactical decisions
- Monitoring and/or modelling to determine protective actions
- Health monitoring protocols for people affected by toxic materials

Refer to – [Cordon controls – operations training specification](#)



## Practical application

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### Control measure element

Recognise the involvement of toxic materials and implement appropriate cordons

### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish safe control and effective management of resources and the public
- Assess and monitor the effect of weather on airborne toxic materials
- Apply health surveillance procedures to monitor exposed responders

Refer to – [Cordon controls – operations training specification](#)



## Control measure - Containment: Toxic materials

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Contain toxic materials

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- Key factors that determine how toxic substances are contained
- Alternative methods of managing toxic substances that cannot be contained
- Key properties that affect behaviour of toxic:
  - Solids
  - Liquids
  - Vapours

Refer to – [Containment – Environmental training specification](#)

## Practical application



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Contain toxic materials

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Assess the impact of a toxic substance release
- Liaise with a specialist adviser to determine suitable methods of containment
- Apply effective techniques to contain toxic substances
- Reduce vapourisation by appropriate means
- Effectively manage the mixing of toxic materials, containment systems and water

Refer to – [Containment – Environmental training specification](#)



## Control measure - Safe method of work: Asbestos

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Apply Health and Safety Executive (HSE) approved safe methods of work once it is established asbestos is involved in an incident

Understand:

- The common use of asbestos materials in buildings and structures
- The three-step asbestos hazard identification process
- The actions which should be taken in an asbestos work area
- The precautions to be taken as part of the work method for asbestos containing materials
- Fire and rescue service locally agreed safe method of work for asbestos incidents



## Practical application

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### Control measure element

Apply Health and Safety Executive (HSE) approved safe methods of work once it is established asbestos is involved in an incident

### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and assess the risk from asbestos materials:
  - Three-step hazard identification process
- Instigate asbestos procedures
  - HSE agreed method of working