

# Hazardous Materials Emergencies



# Overview

- Definition of Hazardous Materials
- Primary concerns
- Recognizing Hazardous Materials
- Implementing the Plan
- Safety zones

# Hazardous Materials

- What are Hazardous Materials?
  - Any quantity material that poses a threat or unreasonable risk to life, health, or property, if not properly controlled

# Primary Concern

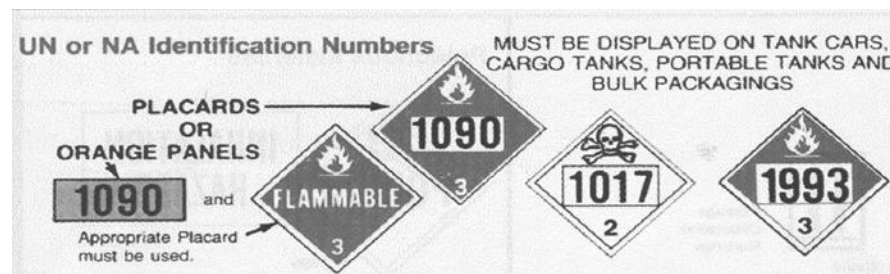
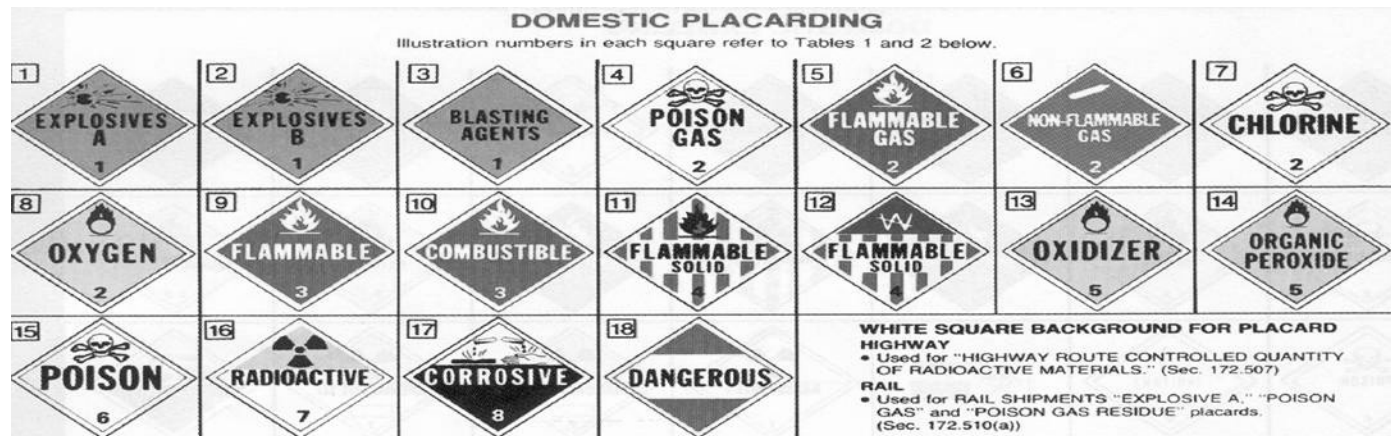
The primary concern in *any* Hazardous Materials Emergency is

**SAFETY**

for the rescuer, the patient, and the public!

# Recognizing Hazardous Materials

- Warning labels or placards is usually a four-sided, diamond shaped sign (red, orange, white, or green)
- They might also have a four digit identification number



# Recognizing Hazardous Materials

- Using your senses, and quickly scanning the scene can give you a number of visual clues which can indicate a presence of Hazardous Materials:
  - Smoking or self-igniting materials
  - Extraordinary fire conditions
  - Boiling or spattering of materials that have not been heated
  - Wavy or unusually colored vapors over a container of liquid materials
  - Characteristically colored vapor clouds
  - Frost near a container leak
  - Unusual condition of containers

# Recognizing Hazardous Materials

## REMEMBER...

You may not be able to see or smell the  
Hazardous Materials...

***ALWAYS*** assume that the area surrounding  
a spill or leak is dangerous!!

# Hazardous Materials Emergencies

***NEVER*** attempt a Hazardous Materials rescue unless you have had the necessary specialized training!

If you have had *NO* training, radio immediately for help!

IT'S FROM THE PARAMEDICS...SAYS  
THEY'LL BE DOWN THE STREET IF  
WE NEED THEM.



BERRY 95 ©

# Implementing the Plan

- Your first priority in implementing a plan is to establish a Command Post
- This is where orders are given, and to which information is directed

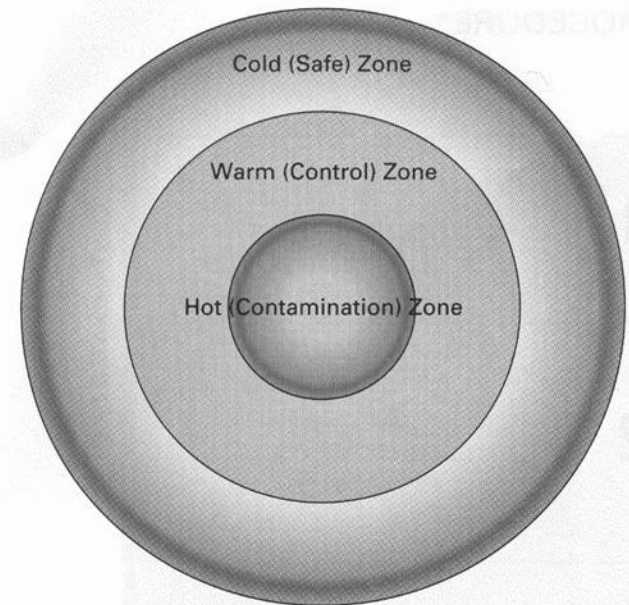


# Implementing the Plan

- If possible, the following information should be gathered regarding the Hazardous Materials Emergency:
  - Nature of problem
  - Identification of the Hazardous Materials
  - Conditions of the container
  - Weather conditions
  - Presence of fire
  - Time that has elapsed since the emergency occurred
  - What has been done by individuals on scene
  - Number of patients
  - The danger of victimizing more people

# Establishing Safety Zones

- Safety zones are established in which rescue operations and a specific sequence of decontamination procedures take place



# Establishing Safety Zones

- Hot (Contamination) Zone
  - Where contamination is actually present
  - Personnel **MUST** wear appropriate protective gear
  - Number of rescuers limited to those absolutely necessary
  - Bystanders *never* allowed
- Warm (Control) Zone
  - Surrounding the contamination zone
  - Vital to preventing the spread of contamination
  - Personnel **MUST** wear appropriate protective gear
  - Life-saving emergency care is performed
- Cold (Safe) Zone
  - Normal triage, stabilization, and treatment are performed
  - Rescuers must shed contaminated gear before entering the cold zone

# Hazardous Materials Emergencies REMEMBER...

***DO NOT*** enter the Hazardous Materials area unless you are trained!

If you have had ***NO*** training, radio immediately for Help!

While you are waiting for Help to arrive, protect yourself and bystanders by keeping uphill, upwind, and away from danger!

# Summary

- Definition of Hazardous Materials
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# ANY QUESTIONS?

