

WHAT IS HAZ-MAT 2 – 9

Haz-Mat 2 – 9 is a team of specially trained volunteers, who are committed to protecting Lancaster County against the effects of a hazardous materials incident.

In 1983, four local fire companies (Eden, East Petersburg, Neffsville and Southern Manheim Township) joining together to form a Hazardous Materials Response Team. They purchased the special equipment and protective clothing required and began training some of their members in the skills that are needed to control chemical emergencies. This team of volunteers became know as HAZMAT 2-9.

In 1986, the Federal Government mandated (through “SARA” Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act) which is commonly know at the “Community Right-To-Know” Law, that local governments provide residents with information about the hazardous materials present in the community. They were also required to provide emergency response capabilities to accidents involving those materials. Thanks to the foresight of the founding fire companies, Lancaster County was already well prepared to meet these requirements.

In 1993, Haz-Mat 2 – 9 and the County government formalized its commitment to serve Lancaster County by signing a five-year contract to provide the emergency response required under the “SARA Act”.



HOW DOES THE TEAM OPERATE ?



Whenever your local fire company is dispatched for an emergency involving hazardous materials, Haz-Mat station 2 – 9 can also be dispatched at the request of the Fire Chief. Upon arrival at the scene, research of the chemical involved is performed on the unit’s on-board computer. Safety zones, and/or evacuation parameters are established and the team prepares for entry into the hazardous environment. Each entry team member and their back-up team is thoroughly checked for medical and physical capabilities prior to entry into the “HOT ZONE”, and the proper chemical protective clothing and incident control procedures are established and reviewed. While the team “makes entry” to control the release of chemicals, the initial responding fire company, (who is in charge of the overall operations), assists in the HM 2-9 operation, monitors the progress and provides for any additional resources and services that may be required.



Some smaller incidents may only require research, response of the entire team. A duty officer and contacted through the county 911 center. The phone to discuss the needs and then may the problem.



advice or minimal air monitoring and do not require the officer-in-training are on-call at all times and may be duty officer will contact the Fire Chief in charge by respond with a minimum crew to help solve the

WHAT ARE THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MEMBERS ?

Each team member must, at a minimum, reach the Hazardous Materials Technician level certification before they can make entry into the “HOT ZONE”. This certification includes and 8-hr. “Hazardous Materials Awareness” course, a 24-hr. “Hazardous Materials Operations” course and a 40 hr. “Hazardous Materials Technician” course.

In addition to the member requirements, the state certifies each team as either basic or advanced, based on the types of equipment they utilize, their level of training and their ability to respond to more elaborate incidents. These requirements are tested by the state to maintain certification.

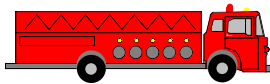
Lancaster County’s team is certified as an advance team, with member certifications in Highway Emergency Specialist, Rail Emergency Specialist, Confined space Rescue, Chemistry of Hazardous Materials, Radiological RM, RRT and RO certifications, HAZCAT Chemical Identification System, and Incident Command Structure.

HOW CAN A NON-PROFIT, VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION AFFORD ALL THIS SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING ?

Under "SARA", each industry that uses or stores Hazardous Materials beyond a minimum quantity, is charged a yearly fee for each chemical it has on site. This money is paid to the state and local government and a percentage is allocated to Haz-Mat 2 to purchase new equipment and to pay for specialized training. Materials that are used at an incident are recovered by billing the company responsible for the spill. Grants and donations are used to purchase and maintain other equipment not supplied by the county.

Each year, Lancaster County experiences approximately 60 Hazardous Materials accidents requiring the expertise of Haz-Mat 2-9. Incidents range from a home heating fuel tank leak in a basement, to a 3000-gallon tank truck rupture along Rt. 30, or an industrial chemical fire and spill requiring the evacuation of nearby residents.

Unlike most 911 calls, which last about one hour, Hazardous Material incidents require a great deal of time to prepare for and "make entry". Working side-by-side with your local fire department and ambulance association, this team is on-call, 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year to protect our community from the hazards of a chemical accident. Our number one goal is to insure that the problem will be controlled and corrected "SAFELY". So, if you see our vehicles coming into your neighborhood, know that we are all working together to protect you and will take every precaution to achieve our goal.



1983

Haz - Mat 2-9



1999

*Lancaster County's
Hazardous Materials -
Environmental Fire Rescue Co.*



Station 2-9
104 Buch Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17604



*All Volunteer Team
Serving Lancaster County
with Mutual Aide to Neighboring Counties*