

Tulare/Kings Regional Hazardous Materials Response



Charlie Norman, Fire Chief
November 5, 2019



Hazardous Materials Regional Team

- ▶ The purpose of a regional HAZMAT Team is to supplement existing mutual aid agreements and comply with statutory requirements
 - ❖ The team will be comprised of staff from participating agencies to provide first responder operational and technical services at the scene of hazmat incidents within jurisdictional areas:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Tulare County | City of Lemoore |
| Kings County | City of Lindsay |
| City of Dinuba | City of Tulare |
| City of Exeter | City of Visalia |
| City of Farmersville | City of Woodlake |
| City of Hanford | |
- ▶ The City of Visalia Fire Department will be the lead agency and provide Specialty Equipment and Haz Mat Specialist/Technician personnel.

Hazardous Materials Challenges in California

- ▶ Over 1,300 transportation related accidents involving Hazmat annually;
- ▶ And more than 7,000 hazmat/oil spills each year;
- ▶ The state has in excess of 144,000 businesses who sell or use hazardous chemicals, and approximately 150 chemical manufacturers all of whom are at risk for hazmat incidents



Hazardous Materials Local Challenges

- ▶ Ag Production Facilities
- ▶ Storage Facilities
- ▶ Railway Transportation Issues
- ▶ Transportation Corridors
- ▶ Field Chemical Application
- ▶ Ethanol/Flammable Liquid Storage Facilities



OSHA Hazwoper Regulations

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response regulates the following 3 Activities:

1. Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup
2. Operation of treatment, storage and disposal facilities
3. Emergency Response to hazmat releases

Requires employers to:

1. Plan for response and cleanup
2. Train employees for assigned roles
3. Follow basic response requirements

29 CFR 1910.120 (Federal Regulation) Title 8 CCR 5192 (California Regulation)

Hazardous Materials Team

- ▶ Visalia Fire Department Started the Hazmat Team in 1991
- ▶ Most participating agencies of this MOU have been in contract with Visalia's Hazmat Team over the past several years
- ▶ Tulare County entered into contract with Visalia's Hazmat Team in 1995

- ▶ Visalia Fire Department is typed as Type 1 Hazardous Materials Team in the State of California
 - ❖ Type 1 is the highest level of capability
 - ❖ Has WMD/CBRN Capabilities
- ▶ Tulare County Fire has had a good solid relationship with Visalia Fire Department
 - ❖ The current model is the safest and most efficient for all in Tulare County
- ▶ Other options would include:
 - ❖ Master Mutual Aid requests from Kern County Fire or Fresno County Fire
 - Response not guaranteed

Fiscal Impact

- ▶ Participating agencies will share the cost to maintain training and typing requirements for Visalia's Hazmat Team;
- ▶ Each year the City of Visalia will invoice the participating agencies;
- ▶ The cost will be based upon the population of the agency, and will be proportionate to that agency's population;
- ▶ The initial cost of the Hazmat Team is \$72,562.22, and will increase at a rate of 2% annually each subsequent year for the period of the MOU.
- ▶ Tulare County's share in FY 19/20 is \$18,343.39. This cost will increase annually by 2% and will continue to be funded by the General Fund as in previous years.

Fiscal Impact (cont'd)

| Agency | Population | Percentage | Cost Share |
|---------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Tulare County | 144,741 | 25.3% | \$18,343.39 |
| Kings County | 69,348 | 12.1 % | \$8,788.65 |
| Dinuba | 25,328 | 4.4% | \$3,209.88 |
| Exeter | 11,002 | 1.9% | \$1,394.31 |
| Farmersville | 11,358 | 2.0% | \$1,439.43 |
| Hanford | 58,105 | 10.1% | \$7,363.79 |
| Lindsay | 13,358 | 2.3% | \$1,692.89 |
| Lemoore | 26,257 | 4.6% | \$3,327.62 |
| Tulare | 66,967 | 11.7% | \$8,486.90 |
| Visalia | 138,207 | 24.1% | \$17,515.32 |
| Woodlake | 7,891 | 1.4% | \$1,000.05 |
| Total | 531,984 | 100% | \$72,562.22 |

* Note that if a city decides not to participate and terminates this agreement then they will be removed from the participating list and cause the applicable cost share of participating agencies to increase. If additional cities agree to participate, then the total population and corresponding share of costs will decrease.

Probability of Future Events

- ▶ In Tulare County, a hazardous material transportation accident is most likely to occur along Highways 43, 63, 65, 99, 198, and the railroad tracks.
- ▶ Trucks and rail cars using these transportation corridors commonly carry a variety of hazardous materials, including gasoline, petroleum products, and other chemicals known to cause human health problems such as fertilizers, pesticides, and industrial chemicals.
- ▶ Large scale agricultural operations in the County will also add challenges.
- ▶ County areas that are bisected by both major highways and railroad tracks include the cities of Exeter, Lindsay, Tulare and Visalia. However, the entire County is vulnerable to a hazardous material event.

-Source: Tulare County MJLHMP



Probability of Future Events (cont'd)

- ▶ Based on previous occurrences, it is likely a hazardous materials event will take place:
 - ▶ Due to a vehicular accident
 - ▶ Due to a rail accident in the County
 - ▶ Due to a Ag Product related incident.

- ▶ The County can also expect a minor hazardous material event several times a year from:
 - ▶ Equipment failure
 - ▶ Operator error
 - ▶ Dumping, or other causes.

-Source: Tulare County MJLHMP



Summary

- ▶ Serves Multitude of Tulare County Industrial Occupancies
- ▶ Increase Public Safety
- ▶ Reduces Response Times to Hazardous Materials Incidents
- ▶ Regional Concept Maximizes Resource Utilization
- ▶ High Risk; Low Frequency
- ▶ Promotes Multiple Agency Training
- ▶ Cost Effective Operation

Requested Actions

- ▶ Receive a presentation on the Tulare/Kings County Regional Hazardous Materials Program;
- ▶ Approve the MOU for the Tulare/Kings County Regional HAZMAT Team for emergency hazmat responses, retroactive for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024. The agreement is retroactive due to lengthy negotiations with all participating agencies;
- ▶ Find that the Board had the authority to enter into this proposed agreement as of July 1, 2019, and that it was in the County's best interest to enter into the agreement on that date; and
- ▶ Authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign two (2) copies of the Memorandum of Understanding

Questions

