



# Office of the State Fire Marshal



**Kansas Security Committee  
October 13, 2023**

# State Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Program

The goal of the Hazardous Materials Response Program is that all hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction, toxic industrial chemicals, and radiological spills, releases, fires and/or explosions are handled quickly and safely with minimal exposure to the citizens of Kansas and with minimal threat to lives and property.

The expectations of the program have increased since the program's inception, primarily due to events of September 11, 2001. Additional response and training required by the memorandum of understanding with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE), Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) for response to Wolf Creek accidents/incidents, in addition to the requirements of the Biological Research Institute (BRI), and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan have contributed to the expanded role of the program.

# State Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Program

The program has developed 9 regional response teams with the training, expertise, and equipment to mitigate the effects of and respond quickly to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, or Nuclear (CBRN) incident whenever called upon by local jurisdictions that lack the resources to deal with such an emergency.

- Coffeyville Fire Department
- Colby Fire Department
- Emporia Fire Department
- Ford County Fire Department
- Manhattan Fire Department
- Overland Park Fire Department
- Salina Fire Department
- Sedgwick County Fire Department
- Topeka Fire Department

The program assists the regional teams with supply and equipment purchases. The regional response teams are reimbursed for all expenses incurred when a response is made on behalf of OSFM Hazardous Materials Response Program. The Program will then attempt to cost recover those expenses.

Hazardous materials trained personnel must show, on an annual basis, the retention of knowledge and competencies involved in the discipline. Continuing education for the regional teams is a requirement in maintaining and enhancing these competencies and knowledge.

The Hazardous Materials Response Program provides training at the awareness (beginning) and operations (intermediate) levels of hazardous materials knowledge but concentrates on technician (top level) training for the 9 regional teams. This training meets or exceeds National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 470 and 472 standards and is accredited by International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ).

# State Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Program

## Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Program

- 9 Regional Hazmat Response Teams
- 200 Personnel
  
- Worked in conjunction with Kansas Highway Patrol Academy to provide 3-day training session for hazardous materials technician.
  
- Conducted two 80-hour Hazardous Materials Technician training courses for regional response teams that provided certification for 50 new Hazmat technicians. Course was funded in part by the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant from the United States Department of Transportation.
  
- Hosted a 40-hour Hazardous Materials Tactical Chemistry training class in Salina at the Kansas Adjutant Generals Department Training Center. This course was also funded by a portion of the HMEP grant. Twenty-four Hazmat technicians were enrolled.
  
- Planned and participated in a hazardous materials exercise with partners from both the private and public sectors at the Wolf Creek Generating Station near Burlington, Kansas.
  
- Hosted the 3-day Kansas Hazmat Symposium at the Wichita Fire Department's Regional Training Center. Training sessions included the Command, Specialist, Technician and Industrial tracks. The Symposium was funded in part by the HMEP grant.
  
- Awarded a total of \$71,000 HMEP grant funds for FY 2023 for specialized and refresher training as well as a hazardous materials conference/symposium.
  
- Awarded a total of \$122,500.00 HMEP grant funds for FY2024 for specialized and refresher training, specialist proficiency sustainment and continuing education symposium.

# State Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Program

Provide refresher training for each regional team associated with the hazardous materials response program.

Provide technician courses as needed to maintain a cadre of qualified team members.

Provide specialized training in additional areas of expertise such as sampling and advanced monitoring.

<b>Level of Training – Hazmat</b>	Actuals FY19	Actuals FY20	Actuals FY21	Actuals FY22	Actuals FY23	Projections FY24	Projections FY25
Number of Students Trained	297	240	252	266	231	300	300
Costs of Classes Provided	\$70,355	\$138,326	\$134,265	\$133,255	\$115,910	\$175,000	\$175,000

Since FY 2020, hazardous materials training courses have been funded in part, about 50%, by the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant from the United States Department of Transportation.

Provide the first responders in the State of Kansas with a response capability of fully trained, equipped, and National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) typed hazardous materials response teams to activate when a chemical spill or other similar incident occurs. These incidents may involve hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction, toxic industrial chemicals, radiological/nuclear and/or biological agents. Nine (9) regional response hazmat teams across the state provide emergency response capability to all 7 Homeland Security Regions.

The notification, response, and cost recovery system are in place and function efficiently in a timely manner. OSFM anticipates no additions to our network of 9 hazardous materials response teams. We continue to monitor the entire program and adjust procedures/processes as necessary to maintain a viable network.

## Outcome Measures:

<b>History of Hazmat Responses</b>	Actuals FY19	Actuals FY20	Actuals FY21	Actuals FY22	Actuals FY23*	Projections FY24	Projections FY25
Number of HazMat Responses*	797	822	819	837	763	800	800

\*Does not include nearly 100 responses or the expenditures for white powder calls at end of June as those are not yet final, estimate is \$170,000

# State Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Program

## Activation of Regional Team

Call OSFM's 1-800 hotline which routes to the KHP's dispatch center

Contact OSFM office directly during business hours

After hours, message service provides instruction to contact Hazmat agency staff

## Impact of the white powder event in June 2023

First time majority of the teams were activated at the same time, up until then past experience had been single team response to any given incident.

Eight of the 9 teams were activated, responded to 100 calls in a week

Estimated financial impact to OSFM remains at \$170,000

Request replenishment of the Emergency Response Fund from State General Fund in the upcoming Legislative session

# State Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Program

## Lessons Learned

Large-scale events need better documentation and record keeping by activated teams and all persons involved

Review of current hazmat response procedures and adherence to established safety and response protocols by teams

Additional training and exercises on responses to future large-scale multiple-team events