

Threat Assessment 2 Hazardous Materials Incident

General Situation

Because of the City's proximity to freeways, major highways and rail lines, the release of a hazardous material into the environment could cause a multitude of problems that can be discussed in a general manner. The significance of the problems to the environment, property, or human health is dependent on the type, location and quantity of the material released. Although hazardous material incidents can happen almost anywhere, certain areas are at higher risk. Jurisdictions near roadways that are frequently used for transporting hazardous materials and jurisdictions with industrial facilities that use, store, or dispose of such materials all have an increasing potential for major mishaps, as do jurisdictions crossed by certain railways, waterways, airways and pipelines.

Releases of explosive and highly flammable materials have caused fatalities and injuries, necessitated large-scale evacuations and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property. Toxic chemicals in gaseous form have caused injuries and fatalities among emergency response teams and passers-by. When toxic materials have entered either surface or ground water supplies, serious health effects have resulted. Releases of hazardous chemicals have been especially damaging when they have occurred in highly populated areas and/or along heavily traveled transportation routes.

Specific Situation

Many forms of hazardous materials are present in the City in permanent storage locations, roadway transport and at various sites. With its proximity to major highway transportation routes and various light industries, the City has a growing potential for serious hazardous materials incidents. The 210 and 605 freeways and Route 66 highway are heavily traveled by trucks. They carry every conceivable type of hazardous material including gasoline, pesticides and compressed chlorine materials.

A hazardous materials release in the City would most likely involve either transportation of chemicals by truck, use of chemicals at a home or illegal dumping of chemical waste.

A wide variety of hazardous materials are present in the City of Bradbury. These materials can be stored at the homes in Bradbury, used in construction and agriculture, and moved by truck and pipeline.

The materials may be poisonous, corrosive, explosive or flammable. The poison effect may be due to chemical, radioactive or biological properties of the materials. The physical state may be as a solid, fine powder, liquid or gas, perhaps under great pressure. Quantities range from a few grams in a test tube to large storage tanks.

The Los Angeles County Department of Resource Management is the designated administering agency for the County Area Hazardous Material Monitoring Program. In the event of a spill or release, this agency should be notified immediately. Major incidents will

be coordinated through the Office of Emergency Services. Response actions are contained in annexes to this plan.

Transportation Accidents

The greatest probability of a major hazmat incident is from a transportation accident. The amount of hazardous materials transported over roadways on a daily basis is unknown, but estimated to be steadily increasing as our economy grows. There is the potential for a hazardous materials incident almost anywhere on the highways and roads throughout the City, especially on the freeways and major highways. Some of the most vulnerable areas along these transportation routes are considered to be the on/off ramps and interchanges near the City including the Interstate 210/605 Interchange and the Mount Olive off-ramp for both the 210 Freeway and 605 freeways (the terminus for northbound traffic). Both of these interchanges and off-ramps are located less than ½ mile from the City's Southern and Eastern sections.

Besides the immediate effect of a hazardous materials incident on scene, there are also ancillary effects such as the impact on waterways and drainage systems, and the evacuation of schools, business districts, and residential areas. The major impact on the City of Bradbury will be the necessary evacuation of residential areas and the evacuation of the Royal Oaks School.

Fixed Facility

The second most likely serious hazmat threat exists from an accidental spill and/or incident at one of the facilities that manufacture, warehouse, and process toxic chemicals and/or generate hazardous waste materials within or next to City boundaries. In the case of Bradbury there are no locations within or next to the City boundary that manufacture, warehouse or process toxic chemicals and/or generate hazardous waste materials

Clandestine Dumping

Clandestine dumping is the criminal act of disposing of toxic materials and hazardous waste on public or private property. As the costs and restrictions increase for legitimate hazardous waste disposal sites, it might be anticipated that illegal dumping of hazardous materials will increase proportionately. There is the possibility of property owners disposing of hazardous materials on their property; however it is difficult for the City to track that type of activity. The City relies on information from residents and visitors to make the City aware of these types of activities so that proper action can be taken.

Emergency Response Actions

Emergency response actions applicable to all hazards are included in **Part Two Annexes, Checklist Actions for each Section.**

Note: For specific information refer to the City's Hazardous Materials Area Plan with **Los Angeles County Fire Department**). (CW-#46)