



ANNEX E

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

I. PURPOSE

This annex provides a point of reference for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) personnel in dealing with large-scale on-site emergencies or community-wide catastrophes that may involve:

- General Health & Safety
- Hazardous Materials
- Radiological Hazards
- Biological Hazards

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Environmental Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Department to advise the EOC and/or Incident Commander on matters relating to EHS concerns resulting from unexpected incidents involving hazardous materials, radiological hazards, biological hazards, or other general safety hazards that may pose a threat to public safety or the environment. EHS will manage, plan, coordinate, and/or execute activities to mitigate these hazards.

B. Campus Community

It is the responsibility of campus constituents to cooperate with emergency response efforts to prevent injury and contain hazards. Employees may be asked to assist with some of these measures and render assistance where applicable and reasonable.

III. GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

A. Responsibilities and Operations Concept

EHS, in cooperation with the Medical Health Officer where applicable, will assess matters that have the potential to affect the general health and safety of campus constituents or the surrounding community. While the Medical Health Officer will coordinate on-site response, efforts related to the immediate health care needs of the injured or ill, it is the duty of EHS to form response teams and/or conduct monitoring of potential health and safety hazards. Other factions of the EOC or University personnel may be enlisted to assist in assessing potential hazards (e.g., Facility Management, Facilities Planning & Construction, Biology Department, etc.). The following are examples of hazards that must be assessed, monitored, and controlled by the EHS Response Team(s):

1. Flood-damaged or tornado-damaged structures, utility systems, or water supplies
2. Contaminated air, waters, or soil resulting from hazardous materials releases
3. Altered or explosive atmospheres (e.g., within confined spaces, buildings, or other occupancy or workspace)
4. Structural damage in occupancy or work areas.

B. Outside Agency or Contractor Involvement

The EOC will communicate with local and state agencies to obtain assistance, as needed, in dealing with general safety concerns. Contractors and consultants may be contacted to assist in the assessment or clean-up efforts of hazardous conditions and may be particularly useful in county-wide incidences where local or state officials may be unavailable.

IV. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

A. Responsibilities and Operations Concept

EHS will assess matters that have the potential to affect the general health and safety of campus constituents, the surrounding community, or any ecological threats posed by the release or potential release of hazardous materials. EHS will make these determinations exclusively, in the absence of intervention from qualified representatives from federal or state agencies or qualified local emergency officials.

Small hazardous materials incidents may be contained or cleaned up by campus personnel trained and familiar with the chemical substance and the potential health effects. Any situation posing a potential threat to human health or the environment must be reported to the UNC Police Department (UNCPD) and/or EHS personnel. Large or dangerous releases of hazardous materials will be reported immediately to UNCPD and appropriate evacuation or protection in-place will be initiated.

It is the responsibility of the first responders to an incident involving hazardous materials to control the scene and follow the guidelines provided in their training. It is not the responsibility of UNCPD first responders to determine cleanup procedures or define specific health hazards. However, every effort should be made to contain spills of a hazardous materials release into the atmosphere where it does not pose a threat to the responder or others.

B. Outside Agency or Contractor Involvement

Most hazardous materials incidents will initially be handled through the above-referenced sources and the Greeley Fire Department (GFD). Where further assistance is needed in conducting initial cleanup, state or federal assistance may be required. Information regarding these procedures and contact information is provided with EHS Emergency Response Plans.

The GFD Hazardous Materials Response Team is designated as the Emergency Response Agency for hazardous materials incidents within the City of Greeley. UNC and GFD will have a unified command of a hazardous material scene.

V. INCIDENTS INVOLVING RADIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

A. Responsibilities and Operations Concept

It is the responsibility of EHS and the UNC Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) to advise the EOC on matters involving, or potentially involving ionizing radiation sources. Radiation safety and response to incidents involving radioactive materials is a complicated subject involving numerous scientific, safety, biological, and regulatory principles.

B. Chain of Command

Definitions of Chain of Command (CC), Incident Commander (IC), and Command Center (COC) are included in the EHS Emergency Response Plans. Information regarding outside agency involvement and resources is also provided in the EHS Emergency Response Plan.

For all emergencies involving radiological materials, it is essential that an EHS representative or the UNC Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) be contacted and

informed of the situation before any aggressive response activities are undertaken. In the event these individuals can not be contacted, a qualified member of the Physics Department shall be notified. They will provide assistance to the IC and/or EOC.

1. EHS Department – An EHS representative will oversee initial response efforts to a radiological incident, in cooperation with UNCPD. This individual will make decisions based on information and advice provided by the UNC RSO. In the absence of the RSO or qualified UNC Radiation Safety Committee member, data will be obtained from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Laboratory and Radiation Services Division. Control of the incident scene will be combined with the response activities of the Greeley Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team upon their arrival.

Typically, an EHS representative will act as the IC during the emergency portion of the response with the RSO acting as the primary technical resource and advisor. Precautionary actions such as evacuation of a building (or control in-place) may be initiated prior to IC involvement provided such actions are warranted.

2. Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) – The RSO is designated by the State of Colorado during licensing. The RSO shall be contacted in the event of any radiological emergency and should be consulted prior to beginning any aggressive emergency response efforts that may result in an exposure to radiation. This individual is an essential part of radiological incident response and will typically serve as the primary technical resource. The RSO may also serve as the response team's safety officer.

3. UNC Police Department – Primary responsibilities include assisting with site control, general security, evacuation assistance, and emergency communications. All response actions should be limited to precautionary actions such as evacuations until the appropriate personnel are present at the scene and incident command is established.

UNCPD will typically be the first responders on the scene and should proceed with the same initial precautions and procedures established for first responders in the previously defined Hazardous Materials section of this annex.

VI. INCIDENTS INVOLVING BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

A. Responsibilities and Operations Concept

This section was developed to address responses to potential large-scale biological hazards resulting from acts outside the normal University activities. Generally, no activities on campus pose biological threats significant to warrant campus-wide concern. This section is therefore focused on unforeseen events or acts of terrorism. Biological hazards may be present during other forms of emergencies and are covered in the General Health & Safety section of this Annex.

It is the responsibility of EHS in cooperation with appropriate representatives of the Medical Health Coordinator to advise the EOC regarding matters posing biological threats with the potential to endanger human, animal or plant life such as the following:

1. Off-campus accidents involving dangerous biological agents posing a threat to the campus community.
2. Outbreak of extremely communicable diseases posing immediate dangers to campus or community.
3. Terrorist activity involving dangerous biological agents.

UNCPD and the Communication Center will initially treat potential or suspected biological threats with responses similar to those already established for first responders under the Hazardous Materials Section of this annex.