

## **Section 1.16 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response**

### **1. Scope**

This section applies to all Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) facilities that store and use hazardous substances. This section should not be confused with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.38, Emergency Action Plans.

### **2. Responsibilities**

#### **a. Area Office Managers and Facility Managers**

- Shall use the criteria outlined in paragraph 1.16.4.b, Emergency Response Plan, to determine if Reclamation facilities require an Emergency Response Plan as prescribed in 29 CFR 1910.120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response. Area Managers shall contact their local environmental protection specialists for guidance when available.

#### **b. Local Safety Professionals**

- Shall assist facility managers and supervisors who use or store hazardous chemicals or substances in determining the relevant criteria in 29 CFR 1910.120 and 29 CFR 1910.1200.
- Shall assist supervisors in the development and review of local Hazard Communication and Emergency Response Plans, upon request.

#### **c. First-Line Supervisors**

- Shall develop and maintain written Emergency Response Plans, when required, and update at least annually. The local hazardous material coordinator or local safety professional will review the Emergency Response Plans at least annually.
- Shall provide employees with training to understand their responsibilities within the Hazard Communication Plan and Emergency Response Plan.

### **3. Training**

#### **a. Initial**

The supervisor must provide training to employees with potential exposure to incidental releases of hazardous substances to meet the requirements contained in the Hazard Communication Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1200, Hazard Communication.

#### **b. Emergency Response**

Supervisors will provide training for employees who participate, or will participate, in emergency responses in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120.

## 4. Safe Practices

### a. Incidental Release

Reclamation defines an incidental release as a release of a hazardous chemical or substance which does not pose a significant safety or health hazard to employees in the immediate vicinity or to employees assigned to clean up the incidental release. An incidental release does not have the potential to become an emergency within a short time frame. Incidental releases are limited in quantity, exposure potential, and toxicity.

- Examples.
  - Hazardous substances stored in very small quantities that do not pose a significant safety and health threat based on the volume or toxicity.
  - Hazardous substances easily contained by employees in the immediate vicinity that are cleaned up using absorbent materials without posing a threat to the safety and health of employees.
  - Employees readily repairing, or safety staff repairing, a small leak at a later time (i.e., the safety and health of the employees are not threatened if the employee does not initiate an immediate response).

### b. Emergency Response Plan

29 CFR 1910.120(q) requires emergency response plans for situations involving hazardous substances or chemicals, including the following:

- emergency responders coming from outside the immediate release area,
- the evacuation of employees in the immediate area,
- potential conditions that are immediately dangerous to life or health,
- a serious threat of fire or explosion, or
- high levels of exposure to toxic substances.

Requirements. Reclamation facilities requiring employees to respond to hazardous substance releases or spills that meet the above criteria must also adhere to the provisions outlined in 29 CFR 1910.120(q). Supervisors and managers must contact their regional industrial hygienist if they feel they have employees or conditions that would warrant adherence to 29 CFR 1910.120(q).

### c. Area and Facility Manager Decision Guide

- Exempt Facilities. Reclamation facilities that do not contain hazardous substances or hazardous chemicals of any kind are exempt from Federal OSHA requirements prescribed in 29 CFR 1910.1200, as well as 29 CFR 1910.120.
- Small Quantity. Reclamation facilities that maintain small quantities of easily-controlled hazardous substances or chemicals (e.g., gasoline, cleaning products or solvents, oils,

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lubricants), are required to adhere to the requirements prescribed in Reclamation Safety and Health Standard Section 1.19, Hazard Communication Program, and 29 CFR 1910.1200. Federal OSHA CPL 02-02-073 defines small quantities as pint size or less.

- Highly Toxic Chemicals. Facilities that store or use highly toxic chemicals known to be an immediate threat to life or health shall adhere to the requirements outlined in Reclamation Safety and Health Standard 1.19, 29 CFR 1910.1200, and 29 CFR 1910.120(q), Emergency response program to hazardous substance releases, based on the criteria outlined in paragraph 1.16.4.b.

### ▲ RSHS Appendix A: Definitions

RSHS Appendix A ([Definitions](#)) is available to print at:

<https://www.usbr.gov/safety/rshs/index.html>.

### ▲ RSHS Appendix B: Additional References and Citations

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