

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COURT SERVICES BUREAU
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

DATE	DISSEMINATION	CATEGORY	NUMBER
January 1, 2003	BUREAU-WIDE	NORMAL OPERATIONS	F.13
SUBJECT: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS			PAGE 1 of 2

Purpose:

To establish a Court Services Bureau (CSB) procedure for the handling of hazardous materials.

Policy:

CSB personnel are not trained or equipped to handle hazardous materials. As such, they shall seek the assistance of local fire departments and other hazardous materials specialists when they discover actual or suspected hazardous materials. CSB personnel shall not sign any receipts for the clean up of hazardous materials.

“Hazardous Waste” is a material which is not to be re-used and is intended to be discarded, or is recyclable, and which due to its chemical, physical or infectious characteristics may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly managed, transported or disposed.

Procedure:

- I. If it can be done safely, the deputy who encounters suspected hazardous materials may examine the exterior of the container(s) to determine if it contains or has contained hazardous materials. Any of the following may indicate the presence of such substances:
 - A. Labels that indicate the items are poisonous or corrosive;
 - B. Warning notices on the containers;
 - C. The presence of leakage from the container;
 - D. The presence of fumes or noxious odors;
 - E. The existence of corrosion on the container.

- III. If the presence of hazardous materials is in doubt, it is recommended that personnel stay upwind and call for the fire department to assist in further identifying the items. Deputies should set up a safe perimeter to keep the public and other law enforcement officers from being exposed to potentially hazardous material.

- IV. Once the deputy has confirmed that they have a hazardous materials incident, they should request the Hazardous Materials Management Unit (“Hazmat”) through the Sheriff’s Communications Center.

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V. Drug Labs

- A. Upon discovery of a suspected drug lab, the deputy will request the fire department to assist.
- B. The deputy will also request assistance from the Narcotics Task Force (NTF/DEA) through the Sheriff's Communications Center. While awaiting their arrival, restrict personnel from going into the drug lab. A suspected drug lab should be considered a potential crime scene.
- C. Once NTF has arrived they will take over command of the incident.