Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 12: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

**ESF Activation Contact:** Cornell Police Dispatch Center (607)255-1111

| Primary Department | Cornell Environmental Health and Safety  
|                    | PH: (607)255-8200  
|                    | Contact: Frank Cantone or Dan Maas  
|                    | Cornell University Police  
|                    | PH: (607)255-1111  
|                    | Cornell University Facilities Services  
|                    | PH:(607)255-5322  
|                    | Ithaca Fire Department  
|                    | PH:(607)272-1234  
|                    | Bangs Ambulance  
|                    | PH:(607)273-1161  
|                    | Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response  
|                    | PH:(607)257-3888 |

I. **Purpose**

a) This ESF lists the Cornell University departments and external agencies responsible for hazardous materials response actions that may take place during an emergency.

II. **Scope**

a) Includes all emergencies involving hazardous materials including chemical, biological and radiological materials.

b) Coordinate the response to and recovery from a hazardous material spill or release or a condition that may result in a spill or release.

c) May be activated by the Incident Commander to respond to incidents that are beyond the capabilities of the initial emergency response actions.

d) May be activated to respond to incidents that overwhelm normal Incident Command response actions.

III. **Situation**

a) Emergency Conditions and Hazards

   i) Cornell University facilities and vehicles in transit on and near the University contain a variety of hazardous materials. Natural and human-causes can result in spills or releases of these materials.

   ii) Spills and releases may present immediate risks to life, property and the environment.
iii) Spills and releases may be static, increasing or decreasing in size, or may create cascading effects.

iv) Cornell University may periodically experience emergency and disaster situations that will require response by University resources and outside agencies and the restoration of essential services. Potential emergencies and disasters include both natural and human-caused incidents.

v) See Cornell’s Risk Assessment for a description of potential emergencies.

IV. Assumptions

a) Initial emergency response capabilities may be inadequate to contain or control the hazard.

b) Spill cleanup activities may be beyond the responsibility of initial emergency response personnel.

c) University resources will be quickly overwhelmed.

d) Communication systems may fail during a major incident.

e) Backup operations will be available but may take time to activate.

f) Shortfalls can be expected in both support personnel and equipment.

g) State and federal assistance may not be immediately available.

V. Concept of Operations

a) General

i) The University Emergency Operations Plan provides overall guidance for emergency planning.

ii) ESF Annexes define roles and responsibilities, planned concept of operation, and internal and external capabilities and resources.

iii) ESF annexes are designed to provide basic information to include points of contact in case additional resources or expertise is needed at the incident scene or on an Incident Management Team.

b) Organization

i) National Incident Management System concepts will be used for response to all incidents.

ii) Incident or Unified Command will be used by responding departments.

iii) When requested, ESF personnel will report to the Incident Command Post or other location, or will participate as members of an Incident Management Team.
c) Notification

i) Campus incidents involving hazardous materials and requests for ESF-9 assistance are to be reported to the Cornell University Police Department (CUPD) Dispatch Center by calling 911 from a campus phone or 607-255-1111 from an off campus phone.

ii) The CUPD Dispatch Center will notify the on-duty EH&S Emergency Services Team personnel of the incident or request for assistance.

   (1) As needed, EH&S personnel will request the CUPD Dispatch Center to activate EH&S Technical Resource personnel (subject matter expert hot pager) or EH&S Spill Response Team via text message.

iii) EHS personnel will notify or request Cornell Police Dispatch Center to notify the Ithaca Fire Department of hazardous materials incidents as outlined in the operating procedures of the Cornell University – Ithaca Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Memorandum of Understanding.

iv) Requests for additional resources shall occur under the authority of the Incident/Unified Command

   (1) Requests for additional Cornell hazardous materials resources should be made through the EH&S representative on scene. The EH&S representative will use the appropriate notification methods as appropriate:

      (a) Direct notification of EH&S personnel

      (b) Request resources via Cornell Police Dispatch Center

      (c) Request resources via EH&S representative on the Incident Management Team (if activated)

d) Direction, Control and Authority to Act

i) The Incident Command System (ICS) is used by University personnel to respond to emergencies and incidents.

ii) During the emergency response phase, all responders will be under the direction and control of the incident’s Incident/Unified Command.

iii) Responders reporting to the incident scene will report to the Incident Commander at the Incident Command Post unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.

iv) The Incident/Unified Command is authorized to take actions necessary to contain and control the incident to protect and reduce impact to lives, research, property, the environment, and campus operations.

e) Actions
i) Preparedness

(1) EH&S shall develop and maintain response plans and procedures, a cadre of trained personnel, equipment and supplies to respond to, contain, control and clean-up reasonably anticipated campus hazardous materials spills and releases.

(2) EH&S shall maintain continuity of operation (COOP) plans for the scope of capabilities identified in the ESF. Service recovery priorities and resources shall be identified in the C-COOP planning tool and further detailed through plans and procedures.

(3) EH&S shall develop and maintain a list of campus, community, and vendor resources that could be requested during an emergency.

(4) EH&S shall maintain a list of personnel (at least one primary and one back-up) that can be called to serve on an Incident Management Team to manage utility related support functions.

(5) Develop procedures to document costs for any potential reimbursement.

(6) Participate in exercises and training to validate this annex and any supporting plans and procedures.

ii) Response

(1) Provide primary response to and containment, control, and clean-up of hazardous materials spills and releases on the Cornell campus.

(2) Coordinate clean-up by outside spill response vendors.

(3) Act as liaison with outside hazardous materials response agencies including local fire departments and the Tompkins County Hazardous Materials Response Team.

(4) In conjunction with the Incident Commander, coordinate emergency information for public release through ESF-17 Communications.

iii) Recovery

(1) Coordinate hazardous materials related assistance as needed by the Incident Commander, Incident Management Team, and/or Incident Executive Leadership Team.

(2) Ensure that ESF-12 personnel, departments or agencies maintain appropriate records of costs incurred during the event.

VI. Responsibilities

a) Primary Department: Cornell Environmental Health and Safety
i) Serve as the lead agency for hazardous materials related support functions and support the response and recovery operations after ESF activation.

ii) Develop, maintain, and update plans and procedures for use during an emergency.

iii) Identify, train, and assign personnel to serve as ESF-12 representatives at an Incident Command Post or on an Incident Management Team (IMT) when a University IMT is assembled.

b) Support Departments

i) Develop, maintain, and update plans and procedures for use during an emergency.

ii) Identify, train, and assign personnel to assist the primary department at the Incident Command Post or on the Incident Management Team as needed.

iii) Support the primary department as needed.

VII. Capabilities

a) Cornell University EH&S Hazardous Materials Team

i) Capable of response to chemical, biological, and radiological material incidents requiring up to Level B chemical protective clothing with SCBA respiratory protection.

ii) Capable of handling incidents involving a single 55 gallon drum or numerous smaller sized containers.

iii) Stabilized incidents that will take less than 3 hours to clean-up are normally handled by EH&S. Incidents requiring more than 3 hours for clean-up or involve significant disassembly of equipment or furnishings (removal of floor tile, removal of cabinets, etc.) are normally outsourced to a cleanup vendor.

b) Ithaca Fire Department

i) The Ithaca Fire Department on-duty shift is capable of providing initial defensive and rescue operations at a hazardous materials incident. Specific rescue capabilities will vary depending on the characteristics of the hazardous material involved.

ii) On-duty shifts will typically have one or two individuals from the department hazmat team assigned to the shift but those persons may be off from work at any given time.

iii) Capabilities include:

   (1) Limited rescue
(2) Gross decontamination

(3) Emergency Medical Services

(4) Evacuation of unaffected areas

c) Tompkins County Hazardous Materials Team

i) The Tompkins County Hazardous Materials Team is operated by the Ithaca Fire Department. The team is part of a regional hazardous materials response consortium that includes the Auburn and Elmira fire departments.

ii) The team is available on an on-call basis with an expected response time of 30 to 60 minutes.

iii) Capabilities include:

(1) Level A protective clothing response (vapor protective clothing)

(2) Offensive response actions

(3) Rescue and decontamination actions

iv) The team may respond and stabilize a situation but will not provide cleanup or remediation services

VIII. Resources

a) EH&S Resources

i) EH&S Hazmat Equipment and Supply Inventory

IX. Policies and Procedures

a) EHS Spill Team Response Procedures

b) EHS Waste Site Contingency Plans

X. Attachments

a) None
## Plan Review and Revision History

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<th>Summary of Changes</th>
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<td>Version 2.0 updates</td>
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