

Chapter 13

Emergency Procedures

13.0 Introduction

The Department routinely has to respond to emergency and disaster situations that maybe natural, technological or chemical. Immediate response may need to be taken to ensure the integrity of the Department's infrastructure, protect the environment, and/or life and property. The cause of action may or may not be technically defined as or declared an emergency by Gubernatorial or Presidential declaration, or by other state or federal emergency statutes under the Endangered Species Act, Stream Protection Act or Clean Water Act. The mission of the Department is to protect the traveling public and the environment.

Description

Natural and manmade disaster/emergencies happen. The Department will respond with appropriate manpower and equipment to mitigate damages to roadways, roadsides, structures, etc. to prevent loss or further damage and to protect the safety of the traveling public. The most common disaster/emergency responses will be floods, wildfires, storms, and hazardous materials spills.

Purpose

The intent is to be prepared to respond to natural disasters and manmade emergencies in an organized manner within identified roles and responsibilities.

Timing of Maintenance

Reporting of Incidents, Accidents, Emergencies and Hazmat Incidents

When reporting incidents, accidents, emergencies, HAZMAT to Area office:

- Be as concise as possible.
- Identify location use route and reference post.
- Do not use local jargon.
- Describe the incident (what, when, and how), causalities, road damage, traffic control or detour.
- Request what staff or other responses are needed at this time.
- Refer to the Standard Emergency Procedures and Guidelines in the Event of a Disaster, Natural or Man Made, Revised 1999, when developing an emergency plan.

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For natural disasters/emergencies a first inspection to determine the extent of potential or actual damages, notification of appropriate staff of the situation to determination the most appropriate actions.

For hazardous materials spills **DO NOT** attempt to make a determination of the spilled materials unless it can be done safely. If there is any question contact the Area Maintenance Office and they will notify the appropriate County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator.

The Department may provide support to the local incident commander typically traffic control, communications, etc. The Department may assist in containment, if safe to do so, to prevent further environmental or property damage. The Department is not responsible for the containment or cleanup of the materials.

Specialized Equipment

Traffic control devices

Safety and Training

Training is periodically provided on notification procedures and responses to disasters/emergencies and hazardous materials spills.

Hazardous material training provides basic knowledge of the health hazards and emergency procedures related to hazardous materials incidents.

Environmental Best Management Practices

Environmental best practices include:

- Cooperating with the Environmental Services District Biologist and/or the MFWP Regional Biologist and other resource agencies as appropriate.
- Repairing any damage to fishery or water resources caused by MDT Maintenance responses to the emergency.
- Avoiding additional impacts to wetlands or streams where possible.
- Providing, if possible, adequate erosion control or bank stabilization necessary to keep materials from entering watercourses.
- Identifying and planning for slide debris disposal at appropriate sites. Appropriate sites for long and short-term material disposal will be identified and cleared for any potential wetland or sensitive impact and mapped.
- Remedial actions for emergencies will include bioengineering and fish friendly design, where practicable for stability and safety.

Procedures

The Department will respond to emergencies and natural disasters that affect the roadway surface, shoulder, roadside and structures or the safety of the traveling public.

Appropriate MMS cost center will be established. MDT will generally have already responded to an emergency or disasters before there is a Gubernatorial or the Presidential declaration. The cost center is the means of documenting what was done, and where to secure funding reimbursement if there is a declared disasters or from a third party i.e. trucking companies, railroads, etc. for hazardous materials spills.

Do not attempt to determine materials spills unless it can be done safely – leave the determination to the experts.

Hazardous materials spills are the responsibility of the Local County Disaster and Emergency Coordinator. They will generally become the active incident commander.

Spill containment, if requested by the local incident commander, the Department may attempt to confine hazardous materials spills if they are not life threatening.

The Department will not engage in clean-up activities unless directed by the Maintenance Chief or higher authority within the department.

Resources

MDT Standard Emergency Procedures and Guidelines In The Event of a Disaster,
Natural or Manmade
Emergency Resource Guidebook

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