



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

**Presented by Mike Phelps, Hazmat Coordinator
for
KALAMAZOO COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM**

KALAMAZOO COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

2014 Annual Report

Table of Contents

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
II. MISSION STATEMENT and BACKGROUND.....	4
Mission Statement.....	4
Demographics	4
Capabilities	5
Background.....	5
Significant Responses	6
III. 2014 RESPONSE ACTIVITY SUMMARY	6
IV. 2014 TRAINING SUMMARY	8
Off-Site Training.....	9
Recruit Training and Orientation.....	9
Multi- Jurisdiction Training.....	9
Projects & Procedural Updates	9
V. SPECIAL PROJECTS and RESPONSES	10
VI. BUDGET SUMMARY	10
VII. EQUIPMENT SUMMARY	11

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please accept the 2014 annual report of activities for the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team (KCHMRT). We feel it will be informative and allow you to see the dedication of the team.

There were two hazardous materials incidents that the entire team responded to in 2014 along with eight consultations that the Team Coordinator or Team Leader responded to. The average annual response has been nine incidents per year since the inception of the team in 2004.

In 2010, with the adoption of the Intergovernmental Hazardous Materials Response Agreement, including the dues structure for member agencies, a budget with a predictable income source was developed to manage anticipated and short-term expenses. Several monitors and surveying equipment the team has acquired need periodic calibration or service while some of the disposable materials need occasional restocking or replacement due to shelf life limitations.

In 2014 the team continued to look at various budgeting options including grant opportunities to seek alternate and/or additional forms of revenue to continue to build our team and use the finances available to us in the best way that we can. By looking at these options we hope to be able to replace some big ticket items such as the 1993 tow vehicle, which is a retired fire truck, as well as monitors that are nearing the end of their service life. Some of the monitors that will be in need of replacement will cost in excess of \$50,000 each.

The team also continues to look into the future to see what role we will play both locally and regionally. Many fire agencies have become members of Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). We continue to look at where the team will fit into MABAS and what it will take to acquire the equipment that is required to be a part of MABAS.

The team continues to train vigorously. Because of our unique makeup of response personnel that include sworn law enforcement officers, the team can take evidentiary samples and has worked with the FBI crime lab to establish sampling and evidentiary techniques. KCHMRT is one of two teams in the State of Michigan that possess a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) chemical air monitor.

In 2014 the team started to take a more active role in our medical surveillance program. Part of our normal response now includes a Medical Doctor from Kalamazoo County Medical Control. This is in addition to the paramedics that respond to assist our team. With the addition of the Doctor, we can get necessary treatment to team members should they be exposed to any chemicals or agents, thus increasing the safety and efficiency of the team.

The team is comprised of members from 12 agencies and 1 private industry partner. The number of members includes Haz Mat Technicians, Executive Board members and members of our Medical Team. The numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of members each agency has on the team as of December 31st, 2014.

Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (9)
Kalamazoo County Emergency Management (1)
Portage Department of Public Safety (3)
Kalamazoo Township Fire Department (6)
Comstock Township Fire Department (6)
Oshtemo Township Fire Department (3)
South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority (2)
Pfizer Corporation Fire Department (2)
Kalamazoo County Medical Control (1)
Life EMS Ambulance (2)
Cooper Township Fire Department (3)
Parchment Fire Department (2)
Texas Township Fire Department (1)

II. MISSION STATEMENT and BACKGROUND

Mission Statement

The mission of the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team (KCHMRT) is to protect the residents of Kalamazoo County from natural and man-made hazardous materials disasters and to protect our citizens from water, air, land and general environment from contamination. Internally, our mission is to provide relevant training and instruction that is mandated by law, required by departmental policy, or needed by individuals to maximize their potential to provide Hazardous Materials Response Services and to promote safety in the community we serve.

Demographics

Kalamazoo County Michigan comprises 576 square miles with 18.3 square miles of that being water area, and is made up of 15 townships and 4 cities. Within the Townships are 5 smaller villages that maintain their own governance. The County has, as of 2013, a population of 256,725 with 80% living in urban/suburban areas and 20% in rural areas. The population density is around 446 people per square mile. Educational, health and social services provides 24.1% of the employment, manufacturing 20.4%, and retail trade 11.7%. The County is home to 2 large teaching hospitals, one State University, one Community College, one private arts college, banking and service companies, a major pharmaceutical manufacturer, and many major industrial product manufacturers including chemical producers. The county has over 40 miles of freeways including the major intersection of

U.S. 131 connecting Indiana to Michigan and Interstate – 94, the major thoroughfare between Chicago and Detroit.

Roads and Rail (rounded to the nearest mile)

I-94	26 miles
I-94 BL	10 miles
US-131	25 miles
US-131BL	6 miles
'M' routes	57 miles total
County Primary	266 miles total

Amtrak	30 miles
CN	34 miles
Grand Elk	26 miles

Capabilities

Members of the team are trained to the minimum of “technician” level. Most of the team members have also attended several additional specialized training sessions including but not limited to:

- FBI public safety sampling
- Advanced Nuclear/Radiological
- Railcar emergencies
- Advanced Biological and “Small Labs”
- Industrial spills/fires
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD); radiological, nuclear, chemical, and biological

Background

The response team members are strategically located around the county. The team, when activated, operates under the direction of a designated team leader and within the Incident Management System. The team intends to respond to acute hazardous chemical releases in the county. The primary objective is to protect human life and incident mitigation during the early stages of an emergency.

The KCHMRT recognizes that local fire departments have primary responsibility for the mitigation of hazardous materials emergencies as directed by P.A. 207. For those incidents where the local officials ask the KCHMRT for assistance, the local team will provide emergency hazardous materials incident response under the direction of the Intergovernmental Hazardous Materials Response Agreement.

The KCHMRT is designed as a support unit to provide 24-hour coverage seven days a week. As a support unit, the team operates under the direct authority of the on-scene Incident

Commander. If requested, the team may provide technical guidance to an on-scene Incident Commander by phone or in person.

The team is governed by an Executive Board, comprised of Chief Officers or senior administrators of the departments that have members on the team, a Team Coordinator and four Team Leaders. The Executive Board manages the finances, member appointments and dismissals, and oversees the general administrative operations of the team as directed by the Intergovernmental Response Agreement and the Executive Board By-Laws. The Board also represents the team at official functions and is the liaison to the elected boards of the member agencies. The team has one Team Coordinator and four Team Leaders that manage the tactical responses and operations of the team. They also coordinate and conduct the specialized training the team receives. The Team Coordinator reports directly to the Executive Board with the Team Leaders reporting to the Team Coordinator.

Significant Responses

The team routinely responds to small spills, leaks and ruptures of various types throughout the year. The following are significant responses the team has been involved with since the inception of the team:

- Texas Township; Assisted FBI on suspicious powder found in letter (2005)
- Texas Township; Assisted EPA on Superfund Site (2008)
- City of Portage; Acid reaction and leak (2008)
- Bronson Hospital; Suspicious package (2009)
- Kalamazoo Township; Suspicious "small lab" (2009)
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College; Radiological response (2010)
- Western Michigan University; Provide hazmat coverage for Presidential visit (2010)
- Comstock; Fuel Spill into Kalamazoo River (2014)

III. 2014 RESPONSE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

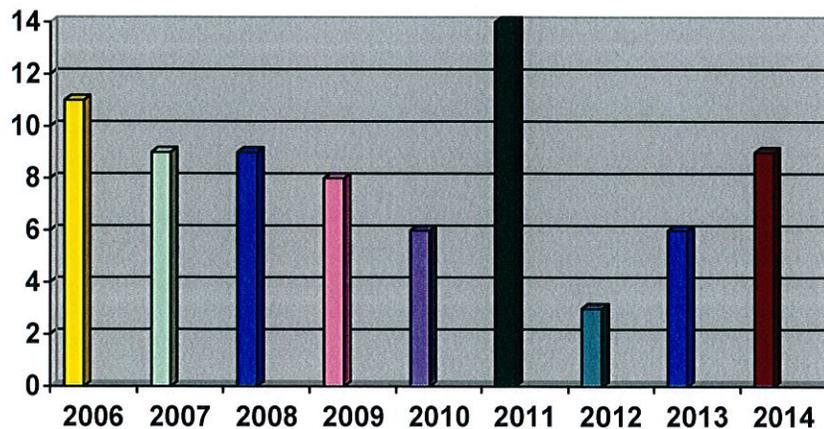
1. March 2014, Cooper Township. Report of a suspicious brown powder found along the roadway. Team Leader Thompson responded with monitoring and analysis equipment and determined it to be cake mix that was accidentally dumped alongside the roadway.
2. March 2014, Comstock Township. The entire team was called out to a report of fuel leaking into the Kalamazoo River from an unknown location. Booms were placed in the river to prevent the spread of the fuel downstream. The cause was traced back to a local business. It appears that vandals had damaged a fuel storage tank that leaked into the storm drain and then into the river.
3. June 2014, Kalamazoo Township. A subject had used chemicals to take his own life. Team Coordinator Phelps was contacted to consult on possible exposure to responders who provided medical care and any clean up concerns.

4. June 2014, Kalamazoo City. The entire team was called out to a possible chlorine leak. An employee of a local scrap business had punctured a chlorine tank that was thought to be empty. The tank was partially filled. Team members assisted with air monitoring until the remaining product dispersed into the atmosphere.

5. June 2014, Cooper Township. The team was notified of a crash that initially reported a semi carrying gasoline had overturned and was leaking with a patient trapped in another vehicle. It was learned once responders arrived on scene that the tanker was not leaking. Team Tech. Gelling and Executive Board member Chief Barnes responded to the scene as the tanker was leaking fuel from its saddle tanks. Tech Gelling provided guidance and cleared the scene.

6. June 2014, City of Kalamazoo. Team Coordinator Phelps and Team Leader Thompson responded to the Kalamazoo Probation and Parole office to investigate a letter containing a suspicious powder and suspicious gel material. The Haz Mat ID was used to determine that neither product was a danger.

7. November 2014, City of Kalamazoo. Team Coordinator Phelps was contacted regarding an unknown product that had spilled at a local business. Unknown subjects opened a valve on a storage container and fled the scene. Team Coordinator Phelps responded to the scene as there were containment questions. The product was determined to be a non hazardous liquid used in paving roads.



The average length of team involvement per incident for the 2014 calendar year was approximately 1 hour. The average number of team members responding to an event was 4 personnel.

IV. 2014 TRAINING SUMMARY

The purpose of Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Training Team is to present a comprehensive inter-departmental network of professional, relevant, and accurate training in order to maintain and enhance the knowledge and performance for the personnel working with the KCHMRT. The Training Team also provides training services to other private and governmental agencies that assist the KCHMRT.

The mission of the Training Team is to:

- Promote ethical and courteous behavior as an integral component in all of the training presented;
- Promote a training environment that enhances professional performance of duty;
- Promote an appreciation for the diversity of our organization and the community we serve in all Hazardous Material Response services;
- Maintain a data bank that will provide our colleagues with information to be utilized in Hazmat mitigation.

In-service refresher training is provided to all team personnel and is intended to maintain and improve basic skills and knowledge in the fields of Hazmat response and mitigation. New laws, community issues, liability concerns, and recommended standards are considered when developing instruction.

During 2014, the Training Team has begun to revisit the "Passport". Passport includes 5 operational sections that total 107 performance based skills and meets nationally accepted standards. This program will enable us to certify our team members in the competencies outlined in NFPA 472.

The intent moving forward is to have all team members complete the Passport program annually to provide credentialing as a NFPA 472 Hazmat Technician. The passport completion is a requirement to perform technician level operations.

In-service Hazmat Training for 2014

- Hazmat Health and Safety – Respirator fit testing and physical exams
- Year-end basic competency skills examination
- Crime scene / Evidence collection
- Monitoring and Sampling Techniques
- Incident Debriefing
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- PPE / Decontamination
- Confinement and Containment Techniques
- Public Safety Sampling for Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Survey and identification of chemicals/substances
- Chemical properties
- Meth Lab Responses
- Tabletop scenarios
- Kal Ex Disaster drill at the Kalamazoo Airport
- MIOSHA Review

Off-Site Training

Arrangements for personnel to attend training at off-site locations or for outside instructors to conduct training locally are administered by the Training Team. During 2014, several personnel attended the following training:

- Radiation training at the Mercury test site in Nevada
- Chemical and biological training at Dugway Proving Grounds.

Recruit Training and Orientation

In 2014, the Training Team trained 3 new team members that joined KCHMRT. We have received several team member resignations related to various issues, mostly moving on to different jobs, lack of time to devote to the team, retirement and leaving the area. This necessitated bringing on new members and indoctrinating them into the team structure and response procedures. This consists of successful completion of an 8-hour competency course followed with a 6 month probationary/indoctrination period with the team.

Multi- Jurisdiction Training

The Training Team instructed courses, seminars, and classes with Kalamazoo County Police, Fire, and EMS jurisdictions during 2014. Below lists a summary of these training events:

- Training with the U.S. Army National Guard 51st Civil Support Team at Regional Training Tower – Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Training with Kalamazoo Bomb Squad
- Hazmat training to KVCC Police Academy and Fire Academy
- Hazmat awareness taught to several local fire departments, EMS agencies and hospitals.

Projects & Procedural Updates

The Training Team maintains a high level of subject matter proficiency and stays on the cutting edge of new technology and information. Consequently, the division is tasked with assisting other departments and specialty units with procedural and informational updates.

The Training Team accomplished the following in 2014:

- Hazmat training for local fire departments
- Worked with Bronson Hospital on several Radiological hazmat objectives and decon policies
- Working on revising our hazmat Emergency Response Guide including several response guides and communications procedures for use during responses

V. SPECIAL PROJECTS and RESPONSES

The KCHMT is often called to assist State and Federal agencies due to the extensive training and experience our team members possess, as well as the type of specialized equipment our team has on inventory.

In addition, the team maintains a positive relationship with private firms and other response agencies. In 2014, the team completed the following projects:

- Developed an equipment exchange with local Hazmat Clean-up contractors and a cost-recovery method for replacing equipment used during responses
- Conducted Hazmat training for local fire departments
- Continued National Incident Management System training
- Revised forms and guidelines for the team
- Participated in community events with Citizens Academy, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Night Out.

VI. BUDGET SUMMARY

In 2010 and prior years, the team was supported by donations from Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Portage Department of Public Safety- Fire Division, Kalamazoo County Emergency Management, Pfizer Corporation and the Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association.

When supplies or repairs were needed, these agencies were solicited for funds. Without a specific and reliable budget, many items were not being addressed. Calibrations of monitoring and detection devices were in particular need of attention.

The team gained its own source of funding for 2011 and beyond with the implementation of the Intergovernmental Hazardous Materials Response Agreement. This allows the team to develop an annual budget and track expenditures. It also allows for better strategic planning for maintenance and replacement of equipment. This budget is for the operation of the team only and it does not address the capital improvement items such as vehicles, trailers and some of the larger equipment used.

The team continues to look at different funding ideas as many of our large ticket items are nearing the end of their recommended service lives. Many of these items are beyond the reach of short term funding numbers and will have to be addressed in the near future. We are exploring grant options as well as partnerships with private industry.

Budget Summary

	(Actual) 2014	(Budget) 2015
Revenue		
Annual Countywide FD Dues	\$9,600.00	\$9,600.00
Team Response		
Reimbursement	\$0.00	
Expenditures		
Fuel and Oil	\$19.43	\$1,200.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Trailer Maintenance	\$143.00	\$3,000.00
New Equipment	\$4,340.02	\$600.00
Training	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$72.26	\$1,000.00
Contractual Services	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	\$5,025.29	\$9,600.00

All budget expenditures must be reviewed and approved by the Executive Board. Personnel costs for responses, training and medical surveillance are borne by the agency employing the team member.

It may be noted that this budget will not support a large scale long duration event. The KCHMT will rely on the host agency / jurisdiction to implement its hazardous materials cost recovery ordinance for reimbursement of operational expenses.

VII. EQUIPMENT SUMMARY

HazMat 1	1993 Chevrolet 2500 "Top Kick" crew cab utility truck (former KDPS Rescue unit)
HazMat 2	2006 25-foot enclosed equipment trailer with interior office space