

# **Hazardous Materials For First Responders**

**From Where We Came --  
To Where We Need To Go**

**Jerry Clark**

**Hazardous Materials Bureau Chief  
New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control  
and  
Charter Member of the HMEP Guideline Author Team**

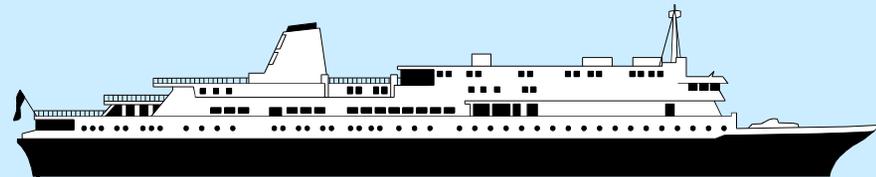
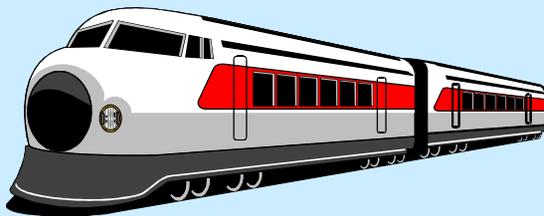
# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- New York State started delivery of HazMat training in 1976 with an 8 hour course:
  - Placards and labels
  - Shipping papers
  - Highway transportation containers
  - How to obtain help



# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- 1985 HazMat training expanded to a 16 hour class:
  - Included previous material
  - Added rail, water, air, and pipeline transportation
  - Added suggested first responder actions

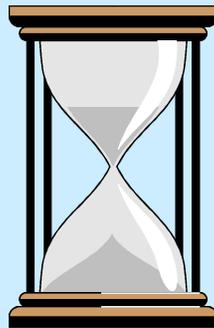


# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- March 6, 1989 29 CFR 1910.120 (q) would establish a mandated **standard of care**
- OSHA focused on safety and not proficiency -- it did provide guidance
- At about same time **consensus standard** NFPA 472 provided for competencies in standard of care issues established under OSHA

# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- Curriculum was modified to reflect both the mandatory standard of care as well as consensus standard for HazMat responders
- OSHA required training starts to become institutionalized and accepted as the norm



# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- 1987 FDNY has only organized HazMat Team in New York State
- 1987 NYS Legislature appropriates several million dollars as seed money to start teams
- 2005 we have 81 municipal teams (31 since September 11, 2001)

# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- 1987 State Legislature enacted a law requiring our office to develop and deliver what will be later called Technician Level training
  - Technician level response skills
  - Plugging, patching, over packing, etc.
  - Protective equipment and decontamination



# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- 1998 start recognizing potential for Weapons of Mass Destruction - using chemical agents as a weapon
- BNICE becomes well known term – now called CBRNE
- Regardless of terminology it is HazMat



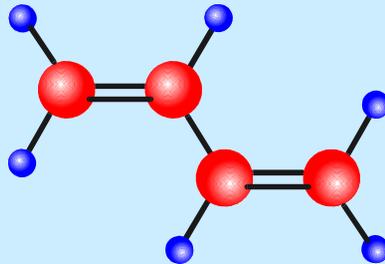
# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- 2001 first standardized response equipment purchased for hazardous materials teams using WMD grants
- Since then over \$200,000,000 has been provided for standardized WMD (HazMat) for first responders



# New York State HazMat Training & HAZWOPER

- Today we reach over 15,000 first responder students annually, have had over 100,000 receive training, and have expanded course titles from one in 1976 to near 30 today – all dealing with HazMat and WMD response competencies
- One common thread - HAZWOPER



# HMTUSA

- 12 years ago congress passed Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act
- Section 117 authorized U.S. DOT to develop HazMat curriculum, provide funding to deliver training, and serve as a clearing house for standardized curriculum – scope of curriculum to be determined

# HMEP

## Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness

- U.S. DOT and FEMA joined efforts to recognize standardized curriculum and support HazMat training with grant funds
- Guidelines committee established
- Initial issue was how to utilize OSHA and NFPA standards
  - **Required** (OSHA) and **Recommended** (NFPA) objectives to be met

# HMEP

- Curriculum evaluation process developed to determine if required or recommended objectives were met
- Self-assessment or HMEP assessment
- Effort was to determine what training materials were available that met HAZWOPER and NFPA 472 objectives to avoid paying to reinvent curriculum



# Guidelines for Haz Mat/WMD Response, Planning and Prevention Training

Guidance for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP)  
Grant Program

*April 2003 Edition*



# HMEP and HAZWOPER

- HAZWOPER paragraph (q) became the base line evaluation element as a required element
- Many programs also met some or all objectives of NFPA 472 as a recommended element
- As NFPA 472 evolved - during different revisions it became more in-depth and matured
- HazMat Specialist (q)(6)(iv) and NFPA 472 specialist went different directions in defining specialist



# HAZWOPER

- First HazMat standard of care defined in Federal Regulation
- One of most comprehensive OSHA standards, especially (q)(3) operational procedures
- Still as important today as it was in 1989
- WMD considerations that are HazMat issues need to be incorporated

# Future Issues

- National Response Plan and Homeland Security Initiatives
- Core element of NRP is nationwide use of ICS
- Additional training initiatives need to be to focus on HazMat ICS and uniqueness of response
- Field Service Field Operations Guide (FOG) chapter on Hazardous Materials is a good place to start

# Homeland Security

- Has identified nearly 1,700 different responder competencies for incidents involving WMD
- Core element for HazMat is NFPA 472 competencies & HAZWOPER
- Several scenarios for states and local's to judge preparedness will utilize the standardized competency list

# Future Issues

- Training needs to use good time management - responders time is critical
- Training needs to be very visual to meet today's cultural needs (visual society)
- Training needs to provide for application of knowledge, skills, or abilities
- We have to use technology to reach those that can not get to the classroom

# Annual Refresher Training

- 1<sup>st</sup> preference is always instructor delivered training – especially for new training initiatives
- Need to develop other options for refresher training and practice of technical skills as another option
- While we live in a very technical and innovate society, little has found its way into HAZWOPER training

# Annual Refresher Training

- Joint DHS (FEMA) and DOT project was to develop a interactive, multi-discipline, HAZWOPER annual refresher for Operations Level responders
- Concept is to develop and pilot program with NIOSH review. Hope is to convince OSHA to consider this type of refresher training without an instructor on site

# Annual Refresher Training CD Based Program

- 17 twenty minute modules
- Some modules training related, others scenario (application) related
- Prompts for incorrect responses and explanation why choice is not correct, especially if it is a safety consideration
- Coaching guide for local instructor
- Can be modified for different state or local conditions

# HAZWOPER Considerations

- Is as appropriate today as it was in 1989
- Can be refreshed and fine tuned
- Pressure to make less stringent for occasional responders (why do I have to be Technician trained?)
- Need to find non-traditional ways to deliver training
- Availability of time will continue to be a problem – need to use most effective use of that time

THANK YOU !

