**Boulder County Hazardous Materials Team**

Entry Team Turnbacks and Scene Notifications

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| Guideline Number | XXXXXX |
| Approved By | XXXXXX |
| Date | Draft 8/5/22 |

**Scope:** This guideline applies to all members of the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Team

**Purpose:** To outline the parameters of standard Entry Team turn around criteria and critical information notifications on scene among the Hazmat Group’s ICS structure.

**Guideline:**

**General Information:**

* The Boulder County Hazmat Team outlines specific parameters for Entry Teams on scene that should be considered “turn back” criteria in order to help standardize the acceptable risks for Entry Teams in a variety of scenarios.
* These turn back criteria are not intended to be all inclusive but rather as scenarios that are likely to place personnel in a situation with an unacceptable level of risk or are situations that have a high potential to deteriorate rapidly.
* It is the discretion of any Entry Team Leader, Hazmat Group Supervisor, or Safety Officer to include additional turn back criteria for a particular entry. This includes the authorization to alter these standard criteria or remove them based on the particular circumstances of an incident if such an action is deemed necessary.
* For the purposes of this guideline, it is broken down into three different levels of action which are Standard Turn Back, Abort Criteria, and Hazmat Group Incident Reports.

**Turn Back Criteria:**

Standard Turn Backs: Standard turn backs are reasons that an Entry Team may not feel comfortable proceeding with their mission based on the original plan. As new information and discoveries become available through the course of an entry, it has the potential to impact the progression of the team, requiring crews to return to the incident command post and reevaluate the entry plan or objectives.

Standard Turn Back criteria for the BCHMT are:

* Discovery of unexploded ordinances or booby traps
* Continued movement or progressions could result in the disorientation or entrapment of the Entry Team
* Radiation readings greater than 200 uR/hr on a mission that did not initially have any expectation of encountering a radiation source
* Discovery of an environment that is incompatible with the Entry Team’s current level of PPE
* Loss of radio communications for greater than 3 minutes without the ability to reestablish the communication
* Further progress will impede communications
* Entry team reaches their 30-minute work time or 40% (2250psi) threshold of remaining air unless extended in accordance with the air consumption SOG

Abort Criteria: Certain situations that an Entry Team may encounter are more time sensitive and will require a swifter response to ensure the safety of the crew. These are situations when the Entry Team recognizes that there is no opportunity or circumstance in which they can safely proceed and they require immediate extraction from the exclusion zone.

Abort Criteria for the BCHMT are:

* Personnel sustain an injury or suffer a medical emergency downrange
* Scene dynamics that cannot be remedied by the Entry Team members threaten their safety such as civil unrest, active harmers or combatants, and runaway chemical reactions, etc.
* Complete loss of communications
* Suit Breach
* Gross Contamination
* SCBA Malfunction
* Entry Team Discretion

**Hazmat Group Incident Reports (HGIRs):**

Hazmat Group Incident Reports (HGIRs) are criteria for all BCHMT personnel to routinely evaluate while on scene to ensure any changes to the operation are communicated quickly to the Hazmat Group Supervisor.

These are situations on scene that have potential to impact the overall trajectory of the incident and may require involvement with the Incident Commander to ensure that the BCHMT is still able to function appropriately and in accordance with our professional standards.

Information deemed to qualify as an HGIR should be relayed to the Hazmat Group Supervisor without delay, even if that requires personnel to deviate from the standard chain of command.

The Hazmat Group Incident Reports for the BCHMT are:

* Changes in response capability (equipment malfunctions, communications issues, limited personnel, vehicle problems, etc.)
* Changes in response environment (weather, hazard discovery, increased risks, etc.)
* Changes in Team protection level are required (Direct threats, intent to harm, CBRNE/WMD discovery)
* Discovery of explosive devices
* Media contact or inquiries
* Hostile or disgruntled citizen contact
* Any incident or accident involving members or vehicles that results in damage, injury, or death