

## How to Request Assistance?

To request assistance from one of the Regional HazMat Teams follow the below process:

1. Local jurisdiction representative (*e.g. DES, Fire, LEO, or elected official*) contacts the Montana DES Duty Officer and requests assistance.
2. The Duty Officer sets up a conference call with representatives from the closest Regional team, the on-scene Incident Commander and State DES to determine if a State response is needed and appropriate.
3. If a regional team response is justified, the group will determine what level of response is needed.
  - Level 1 – **ADVON** (rapid response to do on-scene assessment, 2-3 techs);
  - Level 2 – **PARTIAL** (specific elements of the team based on the situation);
  - Level 3 – **FULL** (entire team and supporting equipment)

**NOTE:** Like any mutual aid request, the requesting jurisdiction is ultimately responsible for covering the costs associated with a Team deployment and for seeking cost recovery from the responsible party(s).

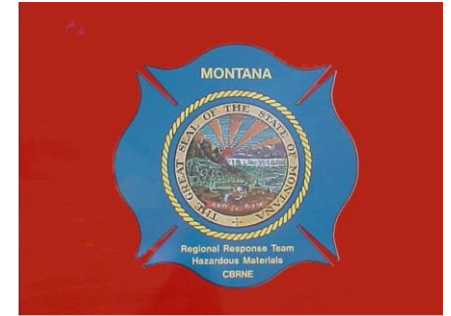
## Information Needed When Requesting Assistance

- Incident IC & Phone Number?
- Location & Safest Route?
- Chemical(s) Involved and Amounts? (*if known*)
- Any Immediate Threats to Life, Property or Environment?
- Any Evacuations in Progress?
- Current or Planned Operations?
- Current Weather Conditions?
- What Resources are on Scene or Available for team support /decon?
- Advance Life Support (ALS) to Support– Available Locally or Need to Order ALS Resource?

### Remember!

To request HazMat Team assistance, contact the Montana DES Duty Officer at

**406-431-0411**



# Montana Regional Hazardous Materials Incident Response Teams





## Local Assets - Regional Resources

The State of Montana has six (6) Regional Hazardous Materials teams.

The teams are made up of local fire department resources located in the following cities:

- Billings
- Bozeman
- Helena
- Great Falls
- Kalispell
- Missoula

When needed, these local resources can be mobilized to assist any State, Tribal or local agency or jurisdiction needing hazmat technical assistance.

The teams work under the authority of the local Incident Commander, and ICS organization. They do **not** “take over” at local incidents.

## A State Plan

The regional teams are approved and governed by the **State of Montana Hazardous Materials Plan**.

The Plan which was first proposed prior to the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, was signed and adopted by Governor Martz in 2004 to provide hazardous material technician level response to anywhere in the State.

The teams are funded by both State and local dollars through various grant and tax programs, with the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) providing the bulk of the funding for training and equipment.

The State reimburses eligible costs to the teams for State approved deployments. The State may then seek reimbursement of these costs from the responsible party or the requesting jurisdiction, depending on the situation.



## Expertise & Equipment

All teams are staffed with NFPA-Certified HazMat Technicians who are available by phone 24/7, 365 days a year.

Additionally, they have an arsenal of specialized equipment including vehicles, trailers, testing equipment, PPE and drones.

Depending on the situation, the teams may just send technical advisors or they may bring all the necessary equipment and manpower to achieve a safe entry, take samples, and test unknown materials. Local jurisdictions may be asked to provide ALS, fire equipment and/or assistance with decon.

If needed, the teams may also request and work with the National Guard Civil Support Team (CST) which specializes in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

### Did You Know?

*“...hazmat shipments account for 3.3 billion tons of hazardous materials shipped every year... All in all, there are around 1 million shipments of hazardous materials every day in the U.S.”*

US Dept. of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)