

Executive Summary

Provide a 1 to 2-page summary of the event highlighting the scope, participants, key successes, and most significant areas for improvement.

The Amberg, Pembine/Dunbar/Beecher Fire Departments and the Marinette County Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to a HAZMAT transportation accident in the Town of Amberg in Marinette County on July 18, 2008. A semi-tanker truck and a passenger vehicle collided head on at approximately 1220hrs on US HWY 141/Town Corner Lake Road. The semi-tanker truck was placarded and was carrying an unknown quantity of Methanol.

Shortly after the collision a fire engulfed the semi tractor and threatened the tank carrying Methanol forcing a hazardous materials alert and response. Methanol is a clear flammable liquid that can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin and can cause CNS damage or death. A ½ mile evacuation/shelter in place order was issued by incident command. Also released in the scene was approximately 50-100 gallons of fuel oil. The accident and chemical release resulted in an incident response from various agencies/resources throughout Marinette County.

The Marinette County Dispatch/Communication center established a communications plan for the scene and all agencies on scene were directed to use a local coordination frequency to free the response frequencies for any pending emergency calls.

Pembine and Wausaukee Rescue Squads along with Beacon Ambulance Service provided Emergency Medical Support to the victims of the crash and the first response agencies at the scene.

Marinette County Emergency Management activated the EAS advising residents within the ½ area to shelter in place and notified the public of the evacuation area. Marinette County Emergency Management in conjunction with the Marinette Sheriff's Department established a Public Information/Media operations section to provide timely and factual information surrounding the incident.

The Marinette County Sheriff's Department established and secured the perimeter of the scene and established a detour of HWY 141. After the fire and HAZMAT operations were concluded the Marinette County Sheriff's Department along with the Wisconsin State Patrol conducted the investigation into the crash.

The incident response situation directly applied to the Marinette County HAZMAT Response procedures and the Emergency Operations Plan.

Event Overview

Provide an overview of the event and a description of the evaluation process.

On July 18, 2008 the Marinette County Sheriff's Department, Amberg Fire Department , Pembine and Wausaukee Rescue Squad's were dispatched to the area of HWY 141 and Town Corner Lake Road for a vehicle accident involving a semi-tanker vs. passenger vehicle. Upon arrival the semi-tanker was identified as placarded to be carrying Methanol. Shortly after arrival the semi tractor burst into flames. The Marinette Sheriff's Department along with the Amberg Fire Department requested the response of the Marinette County Hazmat team.

Events Synopsis

Provide a synopsis, by time, of the major actions that were taken during the exercise.

On July 18, 2008 the Marinette County Sheriff's Department, Amberg Fire Department , Pembine and Wausaukee Rescue Squad's were dispatched to the area of HWY 141 and Town Corner Lake Road for a vehicle accident involving a semi-tanker vs. passenger vehicle. Upon arrival the semi-tanker was identified as placarded to be carrying Methanol. Shortly after arrival the semi tractor burst into flames.

During the initial response by the Marinette County Sheriff's Department and Amber Fire Department, they identified the tanker as carrying a hazardous chemical Methanol. The driver of the semi tractor was transported from the scene for treatment of injuries. The driver of the passenger vehicle was confirmed as DOA. Once the tractor was engulfed by fire and evacuation zone of 1/2 mile was established (by reference to the 2008 ERG) and assistance from the Marinette County Level B HAZMAT team was requested.

A secure area was established on both sides of the incident was marked off with barricades set by the Marinette County Public Works Department-Highway Division. An alternate transportation route for US Hwy 141 was established by the Marinette County Sheriff's Department. The route was marked (signed) by the Marinette County Public Works Department-Highway Division.

Within the critical hour area residences within the 1/2 mile radius were notified of the potential dangers and evacuated. The initial fire/HAZMAT operations were fire suppression and to cool the Methanol tank. After the fires (vehicle and grass) and the tank was cool to a safe temperature the tank was inspected for compromise. There was not a release of methanol and the tank did not BLEVE as designed. The tank did fracture in two spots as the result of heat.

The scene was released to the Sheriff's Department for crash investigation. It was learned during the crash investigation that the accident was an intentional act by the driver of the automobile. The driver of the vehicle was DOA.

A community reception center was opened at the Amberg Community Center to provide relief to area residents displaced by the event. The American Red Cross provided meals and water to persons at the reception center along with the first responders on scene.

Analysis of Outcomes

Provide an analysis of how well the participating jurisdictions as a whole (i.e., across disciplines and across jurisdictions) achieved the expected mission outcomes in their response to the event.

It was recognized early into the event that the use of the Incident Command System was critical for incident operations. The communication and coordination between the participating agencies was remarkable. The decision making process and the mobilization of resources' was highly successful. The information sharing between the departments involved was outstanding.

Analysis of Critical Task Performance

Critical task that were identified during this event include the following: direction and control, safety, communication, and fire/HAZMAT operations.

Incident Command/Incident Management: While most emergency situations are handled locally unified command was establish at the onset of the incident. The establishment of unified command helped to effectively coordinate and provide a well communicated scene.

There are aspects of the ICS that need to be addressed in the response agencies policies and procedures. The following corrective actions were recommended at the After Action Review:

- 1. Identify and establish one command. If the scene is divided or needs to be divided, divide the scene by section or branch within Operations.**
- 2. Locate the unified command leaders in one area. The Command Post should be established in an area that if possible the Incident Commander(s) can have a visual operating picture.**
- 3. Unified Commanders must meet to establish and prioritize the incident objectives. Once the objectives have been identified they need to be passed on to the operations section to be carried out. The Incident Commander is not part of the operations section. The Incident Commander is responsible for the overall incident management.**
- 4. Effective accountability of resources is a must at all jurisdiction/functional levels during an incident. The following principles should be adhered to:**
 - a. Sign in/sign out**
 - b. Unity of Command: Each individual involved will be assigned to one supervisor.**
 - c. Resource tracking: Incident Commanders must record/report resource status. Resource status includes the rehab of personnel and equipment.**

Communication/Warning: On a whole the communication and coordination between participating agencies was remarkable. The communication and the mobilization of resources' were highly successful. The information sharing between the departments involved was outstanding.

The following are areas of improvement that were identified in the After Action Review:

- 1. A communication plan should be identified. One common frequency needs to be established for communication with dispatch and the unified Incident Commanders. All ground or tactical communications need to take place on common frequencies between agencies (i.e. Fire-Fire ground, EMS-EMS disaster, Law Enforcement-WISPERN).**

Law Enforcement/Fire/Rescue: The Marinette County Sheriff's Department and the Pembine, Amberg, and Wausaukee Fire Departments worked well with Pembine and Wausaukee Rescue.

The following is an area that should be addressed in agency SOP's:

- 1. The ultimate responsibility for the safe conduct of incident management operations lies with the Incident Commander or the Unified Command. In a Unified Command structure, a single Safety Officer should be designated, even though there may be multiple jurisdictions or functional disciplines involved.**
- 2. The Safety Officer is responsible for the procedures necessary to ensure ongoing safety assessments of the hazardous environment.**
- 3. Staging areas need to be identified and all personnel who are not directly involved with operations need to report to the staging area. The staging areas become safety zones for**

scene personnel and the deployment of additional resources is controlled and coordinated to the operational zone.

Conclusions

Provide a brief summary of the major conclusions from the event.

Overall, all participating agencies stayed with in their roles and accomplished their objectives as the event unfolded. The direction and control, communication, and the safety issues will work themselves out as agencies become more comfortable with the ICS concepts, technology, and resources available.

The departments should develop a means to conduct after action meetings for all major response calls. After action briefings help identify strong and weak areas of the program. The after action meetings will also minimize misunderstandings which can lead to program failure and mistrust.