

Hazardous Materials Incident Module

MFIRS Reporting Criteria

When to Complete the HazMat Module

The HazMat Module is considered required reporting for purposes of the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System however, Minnesota has modified the federal definition of when the Hazardous Materials Module should be completed. In Minnesota, the MFIRS HazMat Module should be completed if **all** of the following circumstances apply:

- A material is present that is suspected of being other than ordinary combustible materials or combustible material by-products **AND**,
- The material is in such a state, quantity, or circumstances that, if left unattended, it is presumed to pose a threat to life, health, property, or the environment **AND**,
- Specialized HazMat resources were dispatched or used, or should have been dispatched or used, for assessing, mitigating, or managing the situation. For example, specialized resources include the response of specially equipped HazMat vehicles, special sensing equipment, chemical entry suits, special protective equipment, chemical analysis kits, absorbents, neutralizing agents, and / or specially trained personnel were used or dispatched. Specialized resources from other agencies, private industry, and specially trained fire service personnel normally utilized in other ways are specifically included.

When NOT to Complete the HazMat Module

Occurrences that need **not** be reported as a HazMat incident include releases from tanks which serve as the primary fuel source of a passenger vehicle (i.e. privately owned automobile); releases from low pressure fuel lines smaller than 2 inches in diameter serving residential properties with natural gas, LPG, and heating oil; ordinary sewage spills that do not include industrial waste.

Reporting Discretion

Nothing in this criteria is meant to preclude the use of good judgment in the determination of whether the incident is an MFIRS reportable HazMat incident. If in doubt, complete the report.

Other Hazardous Materials Release Reporting Requirements

The definitions and examples listed above are for MFIRS reporting purposes only. State and federal requirements for reporting the release of hazardous materials are significantly different. In brief, they require that the person responsible for the release of any hazardous material, regardless of quantity, report the release to the MN State Duty Officer and, in some cases, to the National Response Center.

MN State Duty Officer
651-649-5451 (Metro)
800-422-0798

National Response Center
800-424-8802