



Javier Mainar, Fire Chief
Doug Nakama, Deputy Chief-
Special Operations

Pilot Program for the Collection/Disposal of Abandoned Hazardous Waste

PS & NS
Ninety (90)-Day Update
12/01/11-02/29/12



Issue

- ◆ Abandoned/Dumped “Routine”* Hazardous Waste on and around City Property and Right-of-Ways
 - 130 Responses per Year by Emergency Response Units (average based on 5 year period)
 - Average incident takes 2.75 hours (including travel)

* *Materials are stable, contained, not leaking, or not otherwise creating a hazard*



Examples of “Routine HZ Waste” Incidents

Waste oil



Hazardous Waste mixed with trash



Paint/Paint Thinners





Pre-Pilot Program Procedure

San Diego Fire-Rescue

- ◆ Use of Cross-Staffed Emergency Response Units
 - First Responder Units (local engine company) dispatched to confirm the nature and status of the material
 - SDFD Hazardous Incident Response team (HIRT) Units are dispatched to identify, package and transport material for consolidation
 - **Mira Mesa Engine 44 or Truck 44 and local engine company had to be placed in out-of-service status for “core mission” emergency incident responses**



90-Day Pilot Program

- ◆ Use of existing contract with Ocean Blue Environmental Services, Inc. for collection of abandoned routine hazardous waste
 - SDFD HIRT Captains triaged incidents based on information provided by requesting party via Fire Communications Center
 - If a dispatcher determined the call to be for “Routine Hazardous Waste”, SDFD HIRT Captain contacted Ocean Blue for Pick-Up and monitored progress by cell phone and email (photo messages)
 - **Engine 44 or Truck 44 and local engine companies remained available for emergency responses**



Pilot Program Activity

- “ERT Routine HAZ Waste” Incidents Dispatched: 22
- Routine handled by Ocean Blue: 18
- Number of times E44/T44 and an engine company would have been placed out-of-service: 22
- Number of times E44/T44 or an engine company were available to handle “core” emergency responses instead of routine hazardous waste mitigation incidents: 8



Pre-Pilot Hard/Soft Costs

- ◆ Consolidation of product at Fire Station 44
 - Small quantities are transported back to FS44
 - 90 day Pickup by Ocean Blue Environmental
 - Approximately 130 incidents
 - ✓ Average annual contract expense of \$20,000
 - ✓ \$5,000 per 90-day period
 - Average SDFD out-of-service time per incident
 - ✓ First Responders out-of-service time: **.5 hrs.**
 - ✓ Engine 44/Truck 44 out-of-service time: **2.75 hrs.**



Pilot Program Costs

- ◆ Hazardous Waste pick-up on a case-by-case basis
 - Product consolidated at contractor's facility
 - Reduction in supplies used by SDFD

- ◆ 90-day period : 22 incidents
 - ✓ Average cost per Ocean Blue Response: \$790
 - ✓ 90-day Costs : Actual-\$17,379
 - ✓ + Existing \$2,000 needed for disposal of Hazardous Waste collected during HIRT responses
 - ✓ Reduction in supplies (buckets, barrels, absorbent, PPE, etc): Approximately \$1,500
 - ✓ Net increase in City costs: \$13,500 qtr./\$54,000 annualized
 - ✓ Average time spent assigned to an incident: **17 minutes**



Conclusions

- ◆ Protocol developed was effective in triaging abandoned routine hazardous waster incidents
- ◆ Emergency response units out-of-service time was reduced
- ◆ City contractor is capable of handling collection of abandoned routine hazardous waste
- ◆ City costs for mitigation of abandoned routine hazardous waste increased by relying on contractor rather than on-duty emergency response resources
- ◆ Cost increased by \$13,500 during the 90-day Pilot Program and would an increase of \$54,000 annually if a decision was made to implement this change permanently.