HAZWOPER: Awareness Level
Safety Training Handout

First Responders at the Awareness Level must:
• Recognize there’s been a spill or release
• Alert your co-workers and evacuate the area
• Protect yourself and your co-workers by securing the area
• Notify emergency response personnel about the release
• Identify the chemical involved

Hazardous chemical spills or releases can:
• Injure or kill you, your co-workers or innocent bystanders
• Cause major evacuations of the surrounding area
• Cause sickness or death if inhaled, ingested or absorbed

Use your senses to detect a spill or release:
• Sight: Leaking or damaged containers
• Smell: A strange odor or fume in the area
• Sound: Hissing or dripping sounds

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After you recognize a spill:
- Alert your co-workers by setting off an alarm or yelling
- Watch for toxic clouds and fumes
- Shut off machines and prevent spread of liquid spills if possible
- Secure the area with barricades and keep unauthorized people out until help arrives
- Don’t attempt to rescue anyone unless trained to do so
- Attempt to identify the chemical spilled using the NFPA labels, MSDS sheets or other information

If exposure occurs, use the 15 minute rule:
- Flush eyes or skin for at least 15 minutes
- Seek immediate medical attention if chemicals are swallowed

After evacuation and treating exposures:
- Inform emergency response personnel about conditions of spill or release when they arrive on the scene
- Tell them what chemical was involved