

Chapter II Operations
Subject 1 Responses
Topic 4 Notification of PUCO of Hazmat Incidents

Subject

- A. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is responsible for regulating the transportation of hazardous materials and hazardous waste in Ohio. Their authority covers all ground transportation by highway or rail, and also the regulation of facilities which ship, receive, or transfer hazardous materials.
- B. The Cincinnati Fire Department has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PUCO. This MOU outlines when notifications will be made to PUCO

Purpose

- A. To promote the safe transportation of hazardous materials within Ohio and to foster cooperation between the PUCO and local emergency response agencies.

Policy

- A. The Cincinnati Fire Division has agreed to notify PUCO for incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials or at a facility engaged in the transportation of hazardous materials.
- B PUCO should be immediately notified in the following circumstances by calling the Incident Report Line: 800-642-3443 or 614-644-5479
 - 1. Any fire, spill, or release of hazardous cargo while in transportation or at a facility which ships, receives, or transfers hazardous materials.
 - 2. Vehicle accidents involving transportation of hazardous materials.
 - 3. Any time the incident commander needs PUCO assistance or advice regarding an active incident.
- C. Company level officers should request response of a District Fire Chief if notification of the PUCO is needed.
- D. During normal business hours the PUCO may be contacted by calling 614-466-0351. This line should be used for non-emergency situations.
 - 1. When a discrepancy is noted in the marking or identification of vehicle or contents to include placards, labels, stencils, or shipping papers (not related to active incident).
 - 2. Conditions noted during routine fire inspections which may violate hazardous material regulations should be referred through the ESS Bureau who will make contact with PUCO if necessary.
 - 3. Questions regarding state and federal hazardous materials regulations should be relayed through channels to the ESS Bureau.

Attached to this Procedure is a copy of the MOU and an information sheet provided by the PUCO. All fire companies and staff are to add the "Hazard Incident Report Line" telephone numbers from the information sheet to their emergency contact telephone lists. Outside of normal hours and other times that this line is not staffed your call will be answered by a voicemail system. This system will automatically page a PUCO representative who will return your call, so be prepared to give a short description of the incident and a return telephone number.

For Use Only By State and Local Emergency Service and Law Enforcement Agencies

PUCO
Hazmat Incident
Report Line
24 Hours

800-642-3443
or
614-644-5479

Please Contact The PUCO Hazmat Incident Report Line Immediately In The Event Of The
Following:

- Traffic accidents or incidents involving trucks transporting hazmat
- Derailments or incidents involving trains transporting hazmat
- Hazmat spills or incidents at trucking company terminals or rail road yards
- Transportation related spills or incidents at companies that ship hazmat
- Abandoned or illegally parked trucks or trailers carrying hazmat
- Spills or incidents involving hazardous waste transport (highway or rail)
- Accidents or incidents where the investigating officer requests PUCO assistance

Your Call Will Be Returned and PUCO Will Respond Based On The Situation and the
Availability Of Staff

Call The PUCO Hazmat Division During Regular Business Hours @ 614-466-0351 For:

- Complaints about hazmat trucking companies, drivers, or equipment
- Questions about state and federal hazardous materials transport regulations
- PUCO Hazmat Training Grants
- Hazmat highway routing
- Hazardous materials or hazardous waste transporter permits

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE CINCINNATI FIRE DIVISION

AND

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

This agreement is made and entered into by and between the Cincinnati Fire Division and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in order to promote the safe transportation of hazardous materials and the effective enforcement of the Hazardous Materials Regulations, as adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

1. The Cincinnati Fire Division and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) agree to establish a joint inspection program to inspect vehicles transporting hazardous materials into or through the City of Cincinnati and facilities involved in the transportation, offering for transportation, loading, unloading or storage incidental to transportation of hazardous materials for compliance with state and local hazardous materials routing restrictions, the Hazardous Materials Regulations and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Rules.
2. The Cincinnati Fire Division agrees to provide timely notification to the PUCO regarding an incident or accident involving the transportation of hazardous materials within the jurisdiction of the Cincinnati Fire Division. This notification shall take place whenever the Cincinnati Fire Division responds to an incident or accident involving hazardous material on the public highways or to a facility engaged in the transportation, offering for transportation, loading, unloading or storage incidental to transportation of hazardous materials.
3. The PUCO will provide to the Cincinnati Fire Division a telephone number for immediate notification to the PUCO of any incident or accident involving the transportation of hazardous materials within the jurisdiction of the Cincinnati Fire Division.
4. The PUCO agrees to share with the Cincinnati Fire Division investigative reports from any incident or accident involving the transportation of hazardous materials within the jurisdiction of the Cincinnati Fire Division.

1

5. The Cincinnati Fire Division agrees to provide the Commission with referrals consistent with standard operating procedure of the Cincinnati Fire Division whenever the Cincinnati Fire Division has reason to believe that it has observed a violation of the Hazardous Materials Regulations during routine inspections conducted by the Cincinnati Fire Division of facilities involved in the transportation, offering for transportation, loading, unloading or storage incidental to transportation of hazardous materials.
6. The PUCO agrees to investigate any referrals of potential violations discovered by the Cincinnati Fire Division during routine inspections of facilities involved in the transportation, offering for transportation, loading, unloading or storage incidental to transportation of hazardous materials and to share with the Cincinnati Fire Division any investigative reports resulting from referrals.
7. The PUCO agrees to give due consideration to hazardous materials grant requests from the Cincinnati Fire Division to provide funds necessary to implement this agreement, including but not limited to funds for the training of Cincinnati Fire Division personnel in the Hazardous Materials Regulations and funds for hazardous materials emergency response training.

This agreement shall become effective when executed by both parties and shall remain in effect unless terminated by either party by giving notice in writing.

2