



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ASSOCIATION

Rocky Mountain Hazardous Materials Association (RMHMA) is offering an Emergency Responder's training program for private industry. The program offers training for all levels; emphasizing operations and technician level for site specific response. The training is OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120(q) compliant and utilizes the "Hazardous Materials: Managing The Incident" manuals for classroom reference.

- 29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6)(ii) Operations level responders "shall have received at least eight hours of training..."
- 29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6)(iii) Technician level responders "shall have received at least 24 hours of training equal to the first responder operations level and in addition have competency in the following areas..."

With these requirements from OSHA, RMHMA is requiring the program be presented as an eight (8) hour awareness course, followed by an eight (8) hour operations level course, and then finishing the complete program with a 24 hour technician course for those agencies wishing that level of training.

- 29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6)(ii) Operations level responders are trained to respond in a "defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release."
- 29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6)(iii) Technician level responders "respond to releases or potential releases for the purpose of stopping the release"

The requirements in the regulation require "at least" the specified hours for the various levels of response. A recommendation from the RMHMA is to increase the training for operations level to three days (24 hours). The additional "hands-on" training enables the responders to establish a level of confidence in more technical skills (i.e. decontamination). This is the same concept behind the association's recommendation that the technician level training be expanded to a full 40 hour course.