



SFDPH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (EHERT)

Jonathan Piakis, MPH, CIH
October 18, 2022



POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Overview

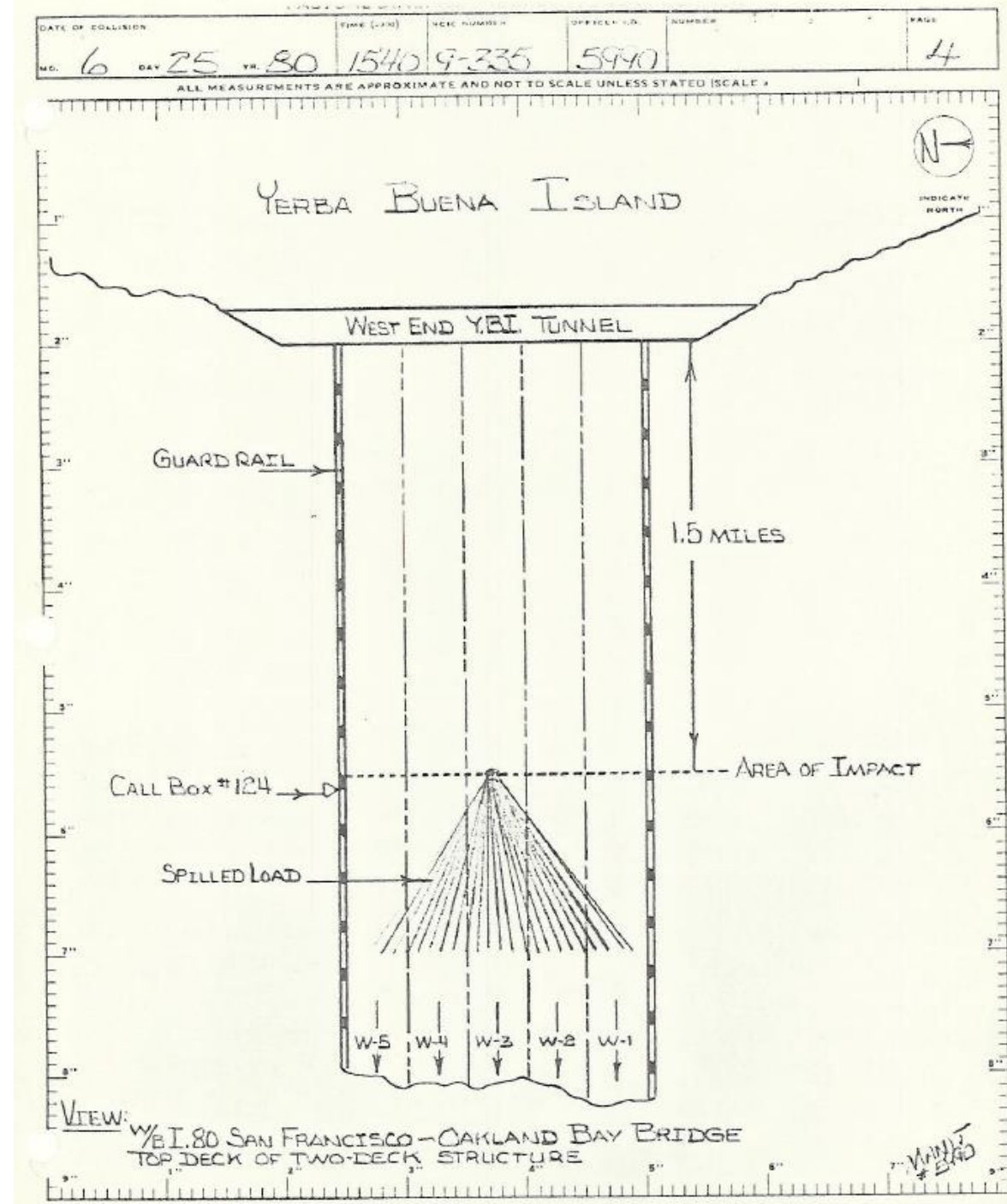
- EHERT Conception
- EHERT Basics
- Training
- EHERT Structure and Responsibilities
- Incidents
- Questions/Discussion



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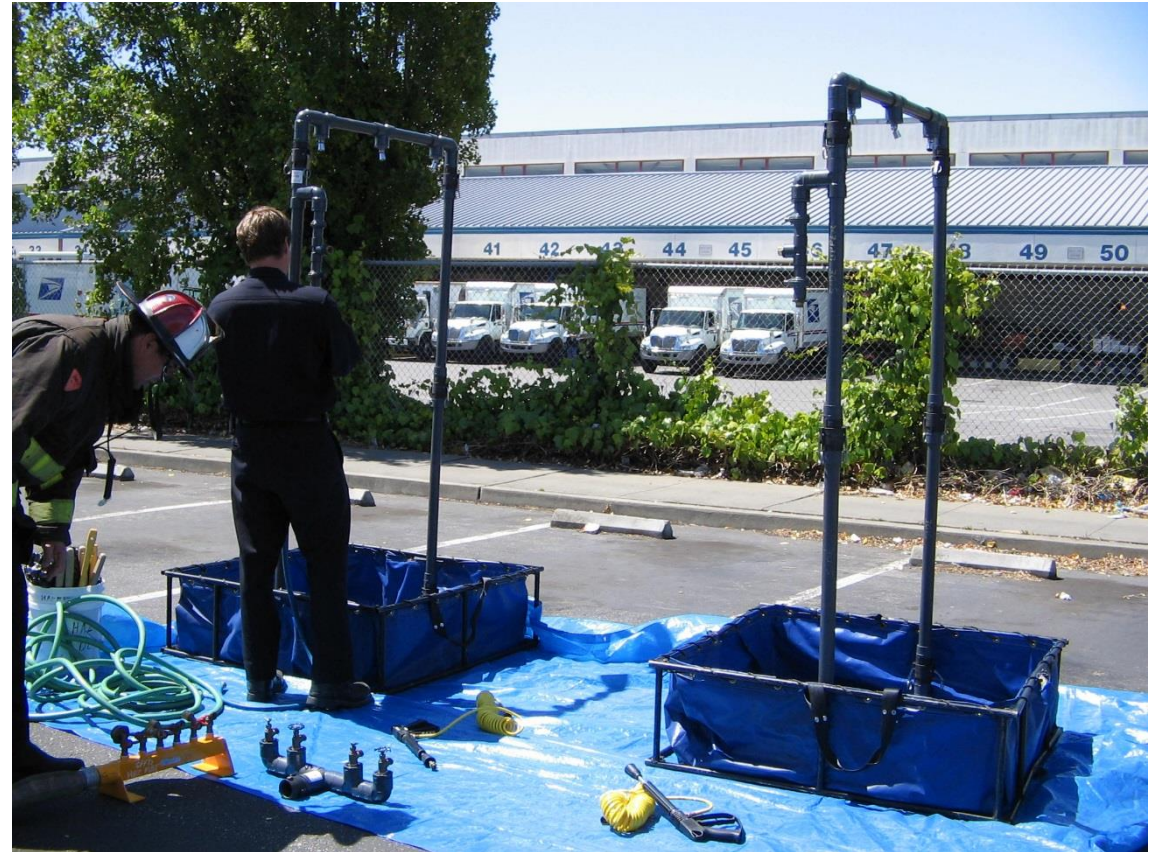
EHERT Conception

- June 25, 1980 Bay Bridge incident
- Responder health and safety
- Proactive vs. reactive
- Other jurisdictions



EHERT Basics

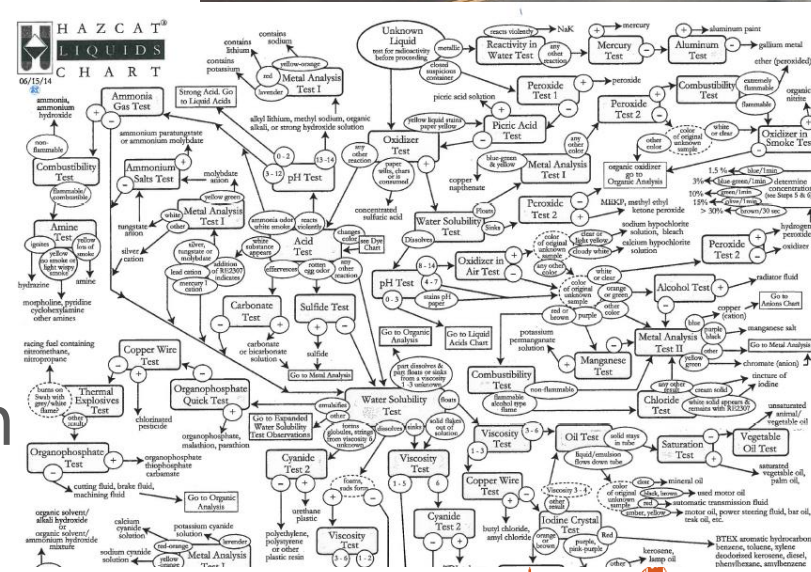
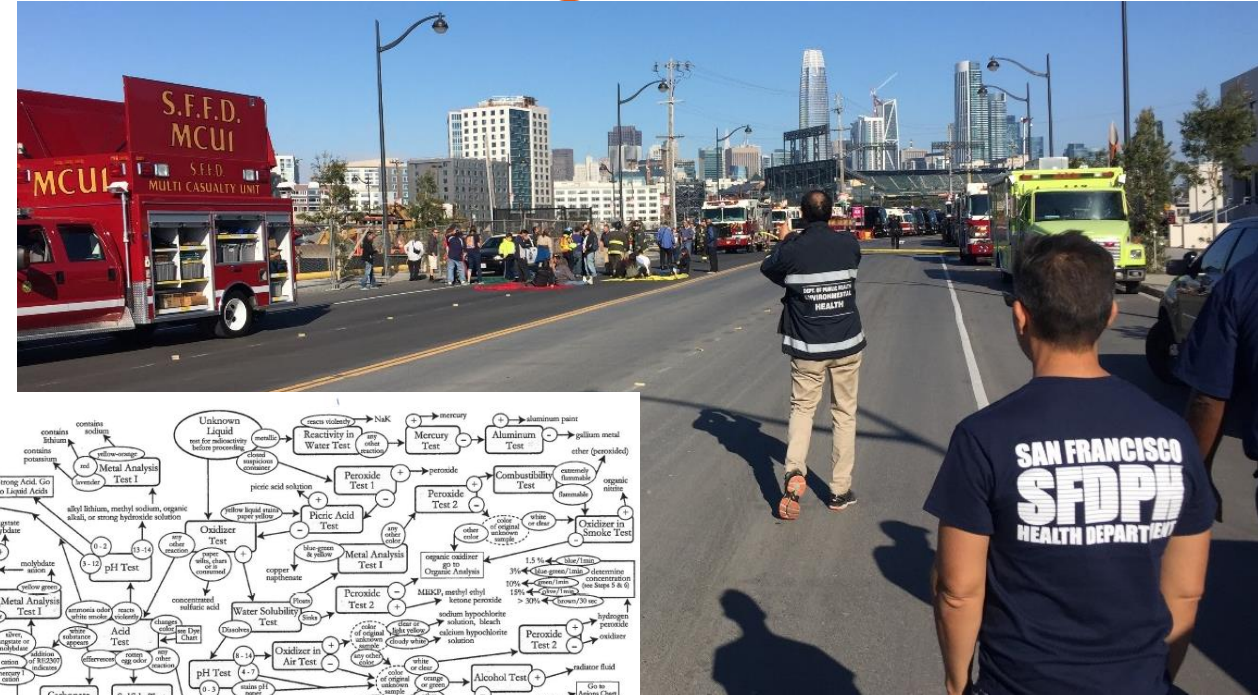
- Consists of 4-5 members
 - Senior Environmental Health Inspectors (6122)
 - Industrial Hygienists (6138)
 - Senior Industrial Hygienists (6139)
- 24/7/365 coverage
- ~1 week per month



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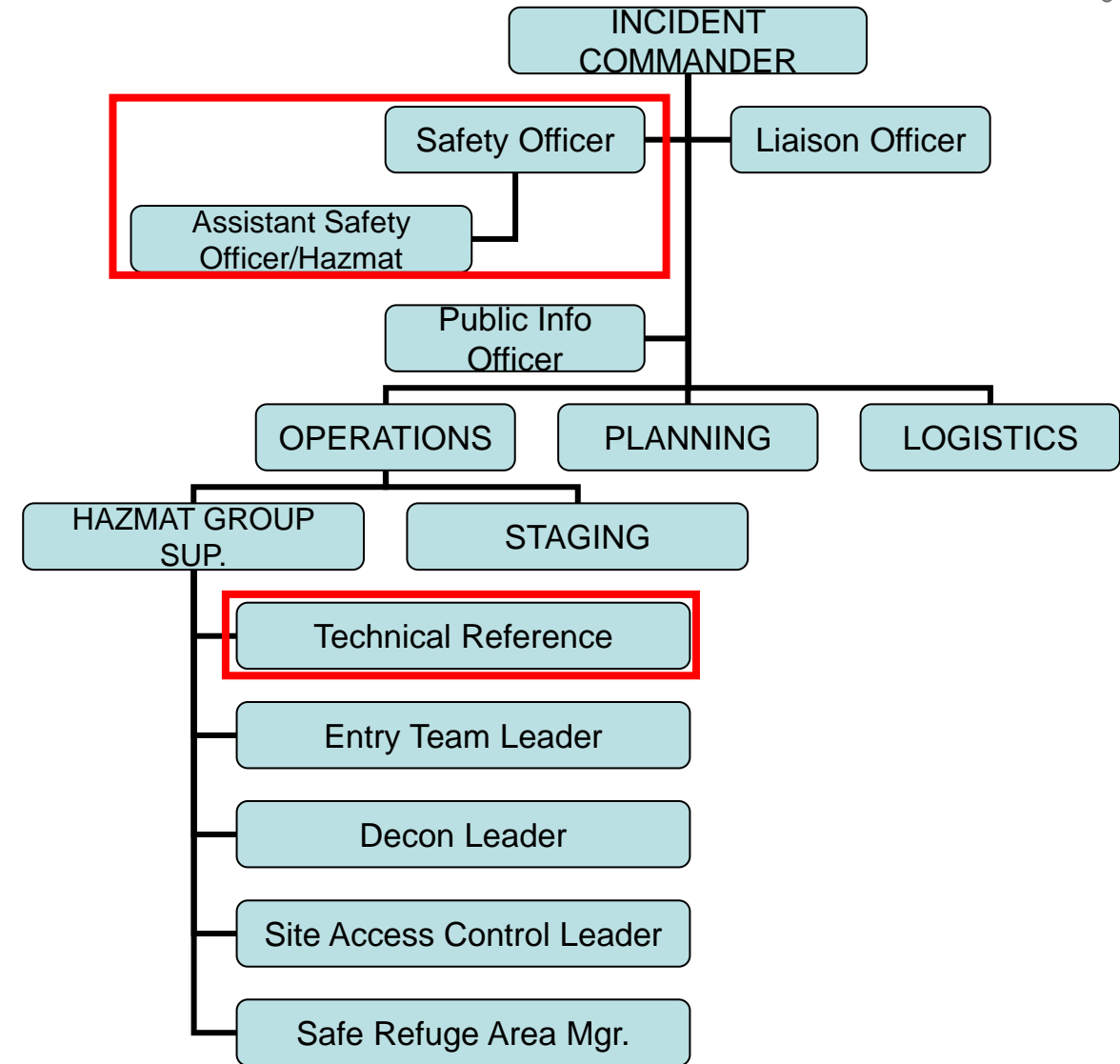
Training, training, and more training...

- Hazmat Technician/Specialist
- ICS Specific Training
- Radiation and WMD
- Identification of Unknown



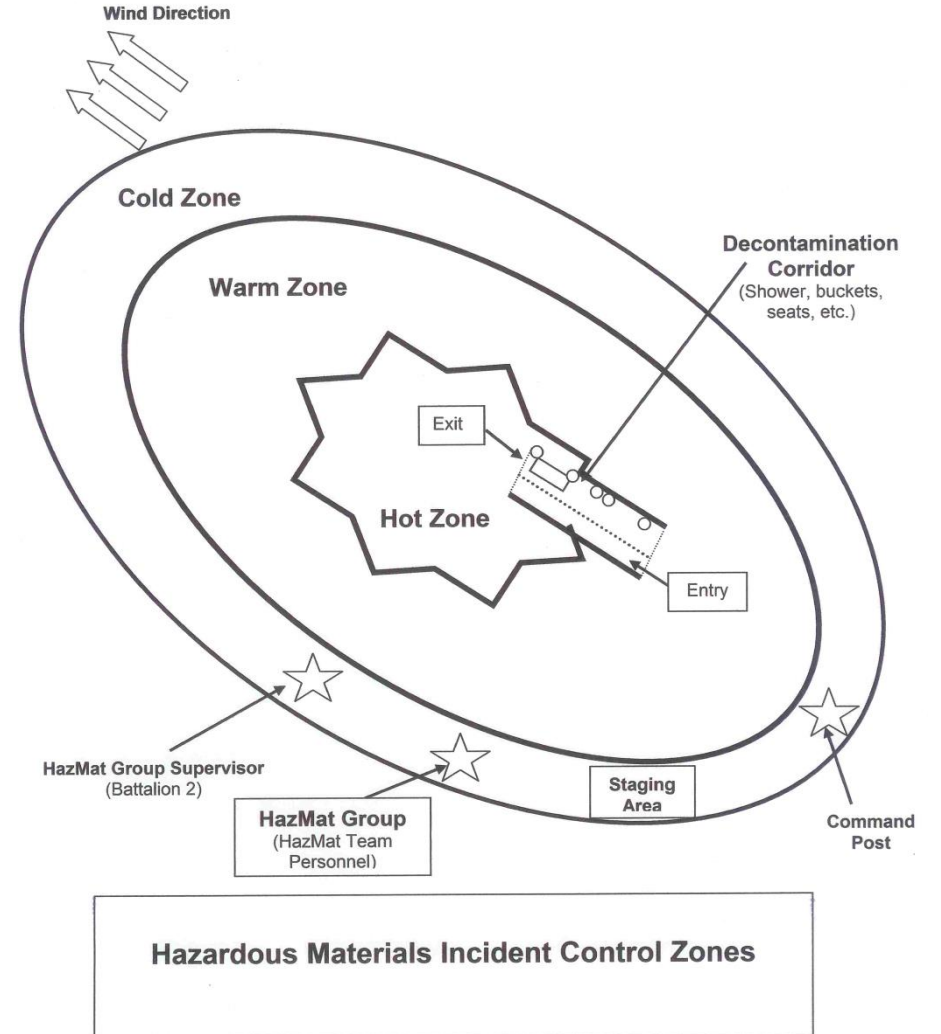
Structure

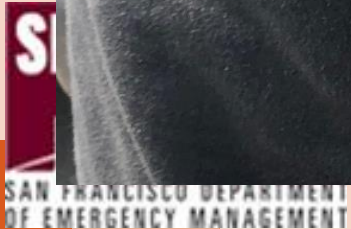
- Operate under the SFFD command structure
- Report directly to SFFD Hazmat Battalion Chief, Hazmat Group Supervisor, or Incident Commander
- Takes priority over all other job duties



Duties and Responsibilities

- Providing on-site expertise and recommendations for:
 - PPE
 - Monitoring and interpretation
 - Sampling and modeling
 - Identification of unknowns
 - Establishing zones
 - Disposal and transport of hazardous materials
 - Decontamination protocols and procedures
 - Many other responsibilities for all aspects of Hazmat Incidents





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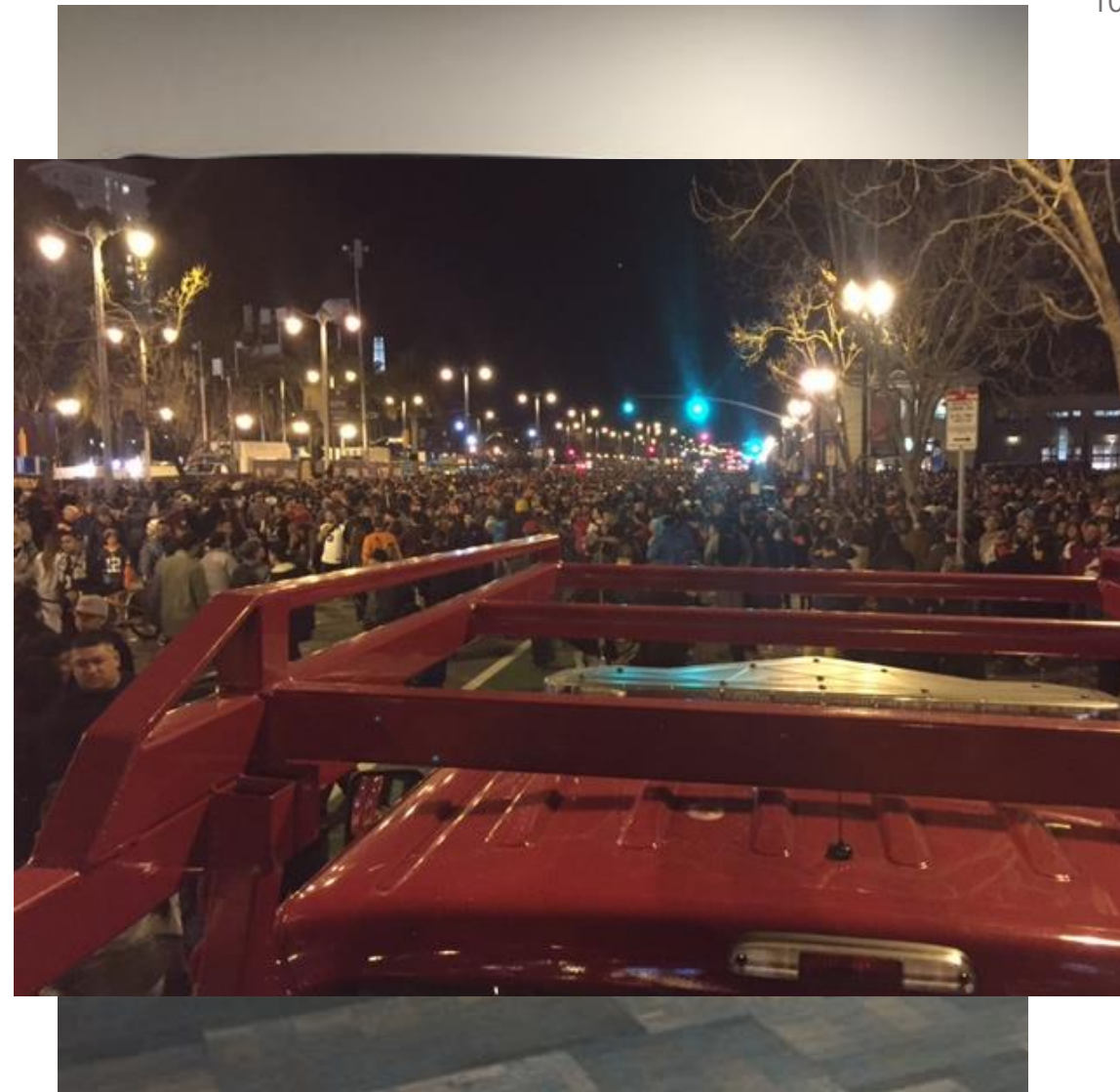
Incidents

- Abandoned hazardous waste
- Releases and/or Spills
 - Example: Refrigerant Gas
- Suspicious letters/packages
 - White powders



Uncommon Incidents & Events

- Special event activities and monitoring
- Clandestine drug labs

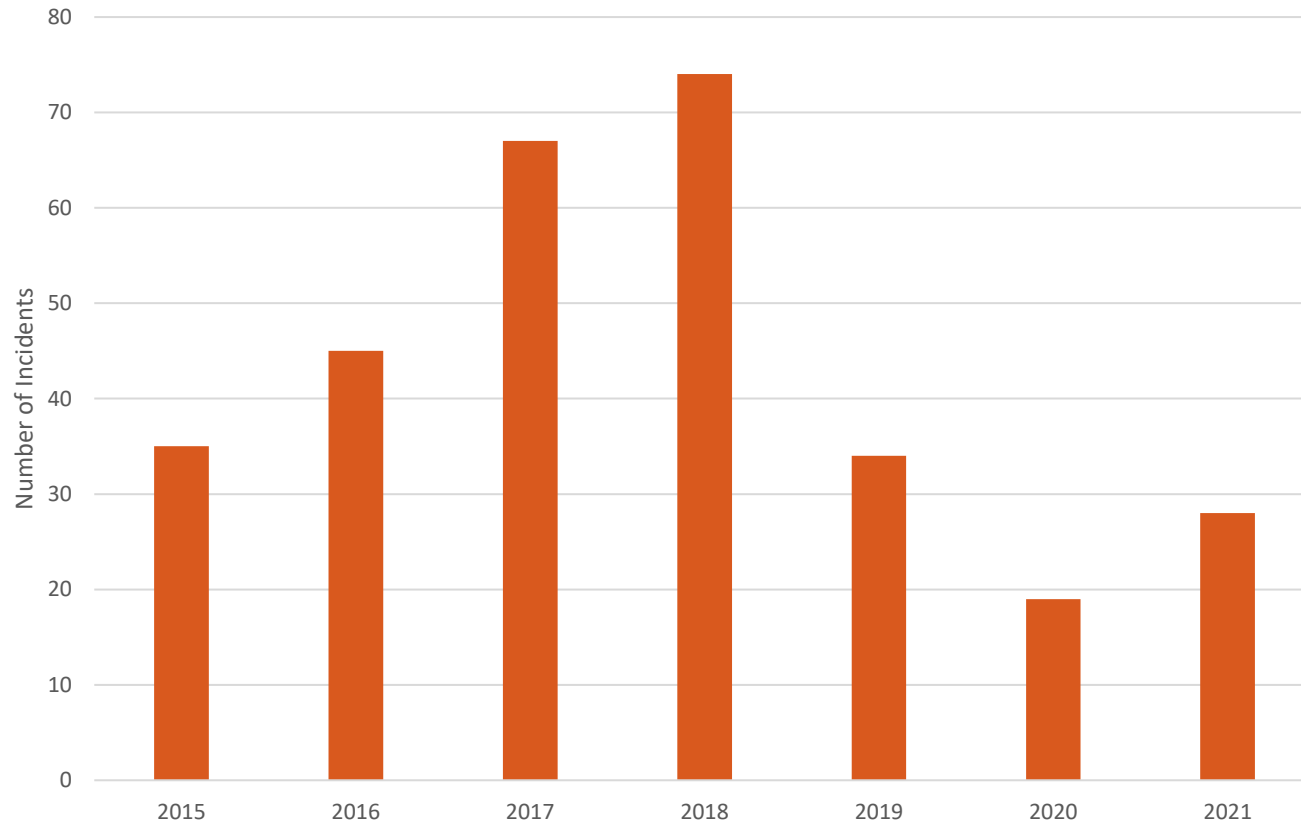


Fentanyl

- Respond with DEA and SFFD/SFPD
- History
 - Development of clean-up standard
- Methamphetamine or Fentanyl Contaminated Property Cleanup Act
 - Cal HSC Section 25400.10-47



Incidents



■ Trends

■ COVID-19

■ Partnerships

- San Francisco AIDS Foundation "Syringe Pick Up Crew"
- DPH Municipal Hazardous Waste Program



Challenges

- Vacancies and Hiring
 - 6120/6122/6124/6138 EHB Vacancies
 - Current EHRT staffing
- Funding, Grants, and Purchasing
 - Department of Homeland Security and Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)
 - Over \$400K in the last 5 years
 - Other smaller grant opportunities
 - State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
 - Assistance and collaboration with DEM, PHEPR, etc.
 - Purchasing challenges
 - Unique equipment
 - OCA timelines and requirements
 - Process challenges



Success and Acknowledgements

- SFDPH Hazardous Materials and Waste Program (Regulatory)
- Internal and External Partners
- EHERT Responders!!



Questions/Discussion

Jonathan Piakis, MPH, CIH
Senior Industrial Hygienist and Program Manager
SFPDH Environmental Health Branch
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-252-3911 | jonathan.piakis@sfdph.org



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