



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Ambulance Operations Procedure

Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams

National Ambulance Service (NAS)

Document reference number	NASNEOC05	Document developed by	Colm Megan Aero-Medical Liaison Officer
Revision number	0	Document approved by	National Leadership Team
Approval date	8 th October 2018	Responsibility for implementation	Control Management
Revision date	8 th October 2020	Responsibility for review and audit	Megan Aero-Medical Liaison Officer

NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: I Approval date: 10th August 2015

Table of Contents:

- 1.0 Policy**
- 2.0 Purpose**
- 3.0 Scope**
- 4.0 Glossary of Terms and Definitions**
- 5.0 Roles and Responsibilities**
- 6.0 Procedure**
- 7.0 Implementation Plan**
- 8.0 Revision and Audit**
- 9.0 Appendices**
- 10.0 Revision History**
- 11.0 Signatures of Approval**

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 It is the policy of the National Ambulance Service (NAS) to work in partnership with other agencies to provide safe and effective systems of work and communications so as to enhance staff safety and enhanced service to patients

2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 To provide control managers, supervisors and staff with clear direction to all levels of responder, employed by the National Ambulance Service.
- 2.2 To maintain quality standards of service to the public.
- 2.3. To provide Clinical Decontamination Team members with clear protocol for activation and response to Hazardous Material / CCBRN incidents
- 2.4. To provide the National Emergency Operations Centre [NEOC] with clear direction upon receipt of a Hazardous Materials / CCBRN in its management and response procedures
- 2.6. To provide Regional Area Ambulance Management with the required procedure for response upon receipt of a call involving a Hazardous Materials / CCBRN incident

3.0 SCOPE

- 3.1 This Procedure applies to all Managers, Supervisor and Staff in the NAS

4.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

CCBRN - Conventional Explosive, Chemical, Biological, Nuclear
DTL - Decontamination Team Leader
Haz-Mat - Hazardous Material
IDU - Intermediate Decontamination Unit
MDU - Mobile Decontamination Unit
NEOC - National Emergency Operations Centre

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of each Control Manager to ensure that each Supervisor and Staff member is aware of and understands this Procedure.
- 5.2 It is the responsibility of each Manager, Supervisor and Staff member to adhere to this Procedure.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of the Education and Competency Assurance Team to ensure appropriate information is included in the relevant Clinical Decontamination Courses.
- 5.4 It is the responsibility of the Manager, Supervisor[s] and staff, who are clinical decontamination trained to be familiar and understand this Procedure

NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: 1 Approval date: 10th August 2015

6.0 PROCEDURE

6.1 Incident Alert Phases

NEOC will provide the Incident Alert text via the SADDIAM text alert system to the relevant Regional Ambulance Management and Clinical Decontamination Team structure, upon receipt of a Haz-Mat / CCBRN call.

GREEN CHEMICAL ALERT:

This indicates to Regional Area NAS Command structure and the Regional Area Decontamination Team that an incident has occurred involving a HAZ-MAT / CCBRN substance. The GREEN prefix indicates that at present there are no casualties involved.

NAS response to GREEN CHEMICAL alert is:

GREEN CHEMICAL ALERT		
Resource	Number	Remarks
ORM or Paramedic Supervisor	1	
Ambulance	1	

YELLOW CHEMICAL ALERT:

This indicates to Regional Area NAS Command structure and the Regional Decontamination Team that an incident has occurred involving a HAZ-MAT / CCBRN substance. The YELLOW prefix indicates that at present there are 4 or less casualties involved. NEOC will clarify numbers involved to responding NAS resources.

NAS response to YELLOW CHEMICAL alert is:

YELLOW CHEMICAL ALERT		
Resource	Number	Remarks
ORM or Paramedic Supervisor	1	
Ambulance	As reqd.	
Intermediate Decontamination Unit	1	2 Clinical Decontamination Trained Staff+ Clinical Decontamination Trained ORM or Paramedic Supervisor

RED CHEMICAL ALERT:

This indicates to Regional Area NAS Command structure and the Regional Area Decontamination Team that an incident has occurred involving a HAZ-MAT / CCBRN substance. The RED prefix indicates that at present there are 5 or more casualties involved. NEOC will clarify numbers involved to responding NAS resources.

NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: I Approval date: 10th August 2015

NAS response to RED CHEMICAL alert is:

RED CHEMICAL ALERT		
Resource	Number	Remarks
ORM or Paramedic Supervisor	As reqd.	
Ambulance	As reqd.	
Intermediate Decontamination Unit	1	
Mobile Decontamination Unit	1or as reqd.	Full Decontamination Team

6.2 Duties of Call-taker receiving call

- Receive call and open CAD, record call
- Notify Control Supervisor [Call-Taking Section]

6.3 Duties of Area Dispatcher

- Dispatch Initial NAS response
 - Operational Resource Manager and / or Paramedic Supervisor x 1
 - Ambulance x 1
- Manage the response of Clinical decontamination Team[s] once organised by Control Manager / Operations performance Manager [Operations]

6.4 Duties of Control Manager

- Contact relevant Operations Performance Manager [Operations] and advise of incident
- Agree on deployment of IDU or MDU to incident
- Activate the SADDIAN Text alert system for Regional Ambulance Management and Clinical Decontamination Team
- Initiate the opening and staffing of the Incident Control Centre, should incident warrant
- Update NAS management / Clinical Decontamination Team Leader as required

6.5.Procedure for responding NAS resources

Responding NAS resources [Ambulance / RRV crews]

- Respond to Incident location or RV Point, as directed by NEOC
- Change to designated incident TETRA talk group Ambulance Terminal , provide radio check on this talk group
- Inform NEOC if Clinical Decontamination trained
- Do not enter Chemical incident area

NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: 1 Approval date: 10th August 2015

- First resource will liaise with Fire Command and Chemical Industry representative, if present
- Provide update to NEOC, utilise [M] ETHANE format. State numbers of contaminated or non-contaminated casualties
- Request information if any contaminated patients have left incident site, inform NEOC
- Inform NEOC if contaminated patient[s] have left scene
- Provide report to NAS management upon their arrival

6.6 Procedure for Ambulance Management

Responding Ambulance Management

- Request incident update from NEOC
- Respond to Incident location or RV Point, as directed by NEOC
- Manage incident as per appropriate level of alert: GREEN / YELLOW / RED
- Change to designated incident TETRA talk group Ambulance Terminal , provide radio check on this talk group
- Inform NEOC if Clinical Decontamination trained
- Do not enter Chemical incident area
- Receive report from NAS resources on-scene
- Liaise with Fire Command and Chemical Industry representative, if present
- Provide update to NEOC, utilise [M] ETHANE format. State numbers of contaminated or non-contaminated casualties
- Request information if any contaminated patients have left incident site, inform NEOC
- Organise area for decontamination of casualties
- Brief arriving NAS Clinical Decontamination resources
- If incident requires an internal talk group, request all NAS hand held terminals to be switched to the DMO talk group.
- Once on-scene, communications flow from site will be via the senior NAS commander to the NEOC

Ambulance Management [Not initially responding to incident]

- Manage incident as per appropriate level of alert: GREEN / YELLOW / RED

-Green: No casualties present

Continue Normal Business Operations,

Await further information from NEOC

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-Yellow: 4 casualties or less contaminated

Contact NEOC via TETRA and declare availability

Continue Normal Business Operations.

Respond to incident site if requested

Operate to Management Duties, as per responding management duties

-Red: 5 Casualties or more, contaminated

Contact NEOC via TETRA and declare availability

Continue Normal Business Operations.

Respond to incident site if requested

Operate to Management Duties, as per responding management duties

6.7 Procedure for NAS Clinical Decontamination Team Members

NAS Clinical Decontamination Personnel

- Manage incident as per appropriate level of alert: GREEN / YELLOW / RED
- **Green:** Text availability status to designated Decontamination Team Leader
No deployment at Green alert level
- **Yellow:** Text availability status to designated Decontamination Team Leader
[DTL]
DTL will deploy two Clinical Decontamination Trained staff to incident
DTL will update NEOC re IDU team deployment
DTL will ensure Intermediate Decontamination Unit [IDU] is mobilised
IDU team will report to on-site NAS command for briefing
IDU will commence clinical decontamination
- **Red:** Text availability status to designated Decontamination Team Leader
[DTL]
Decontamination Team will deploy to incident site as per Regional Deployment Procedure
DTL will ensure that IDU and Mobile Decontamination Unit [MDU] is Mobilised

DTL will update NEOC re IDU / MDU team deployment
Decontamination Team will report to on-site NAS command for
Briefing
MDU will commence clinical decontamination

All NAS Clinical Decontamination Team Members will be activated by the SADDIAN Text Alert system.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- 7.1 This Procedure will be circulated electronically to all Managers, Supervisors and Staff.
- 7.2 This procedure will be available in electronic format and paper format in the control room for ease of retrieval and reference.

8.0 REVISION AND AUDIT

- 8.1 This Procedure will remain under constant review and may be subject to change to facilitate any changes/developments in service requirements.
- 8.2 Control Managers and Aero-Medical Liaison Manager have responsibility for ensuring the maintenance, regular review and updating of this procedure.
- 8.3 Revisions, amendments or alterations to the procedure can only be implemented after consultation with relevant stakeholders and approved by the relevant senior manager.

9.0 APPENDICES

- Appendix I** -Procedure Acknowledgement Form
- Appendix II** -Clinical Decontamination Mobilisation Flowchart
- Appendix III** -NEOC Activation Flowchart
- Appendix IV** -Text Alert Messages



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Appendix I

National Ambulance Service



Acknowledgement of receipt of SOP/Policy

Please print & return this acknowledgement sheet to the National Ambulance Service Headquarters (Author of the Procedure) within 10 working days of receiving the document

SOP/Policy Name:

Author:

SOP/Policy Number:

Revision number:

Approval Date:

Please tick box as appropriate:

- A. I have received a copy of the **new** SOP/Policy as named above; I have informed all relevant staff of this document.

Or

- B. Note: Tick as appropriate within B
I have received a new version of the Procedure above, I **have attached the previous version of this SOP/Policy to this acknowledgement sheet** and I have informed all relevant staff of the new version of this Procedure.

Or

- I have **destroyed the previous version of this SOP/Policy** and I have informed all relevant staff of the new version of this Procedure.

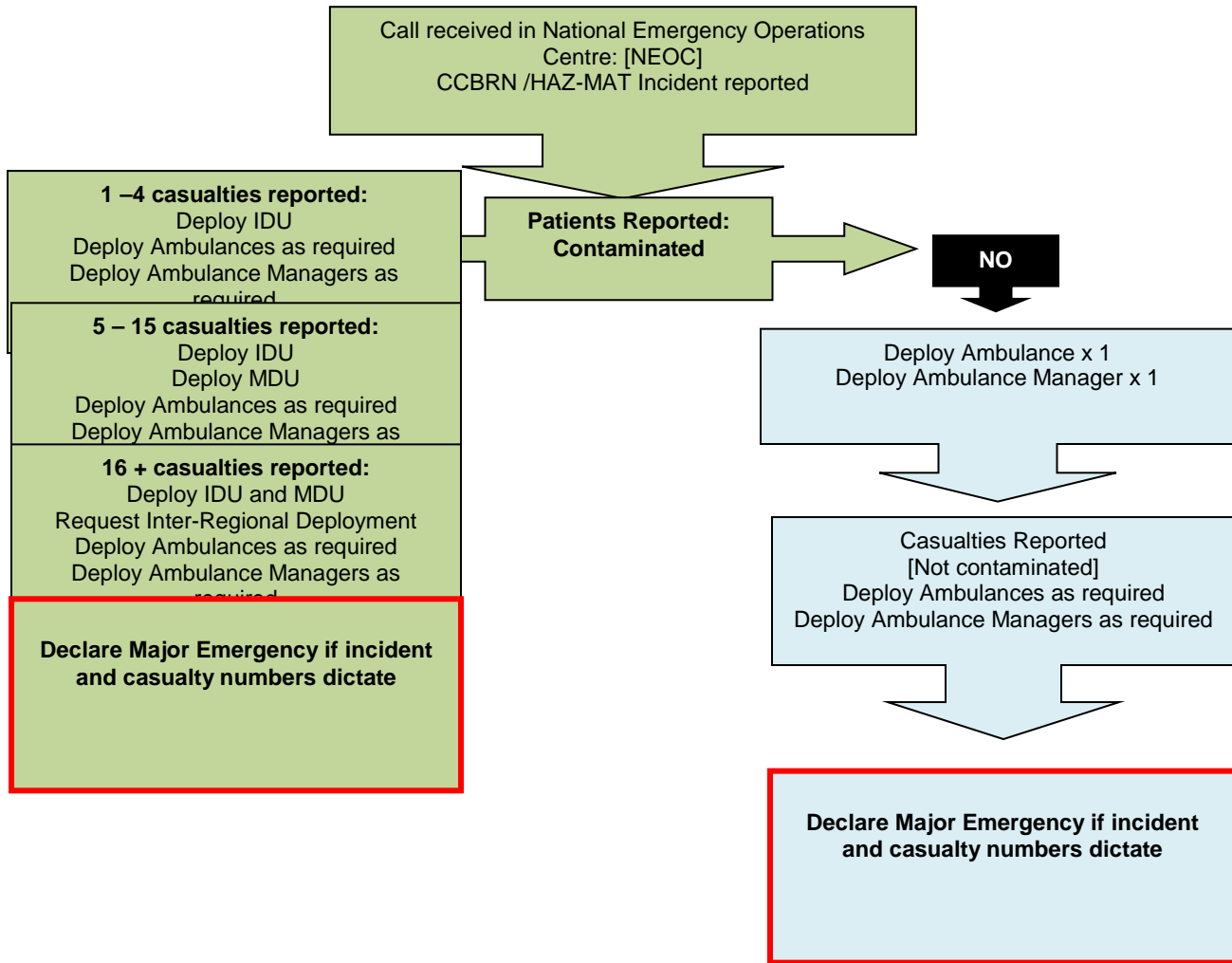
Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Please Print Name: _____

Please return to: Local AOM

NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: 1 Approval date: 10th August 2015

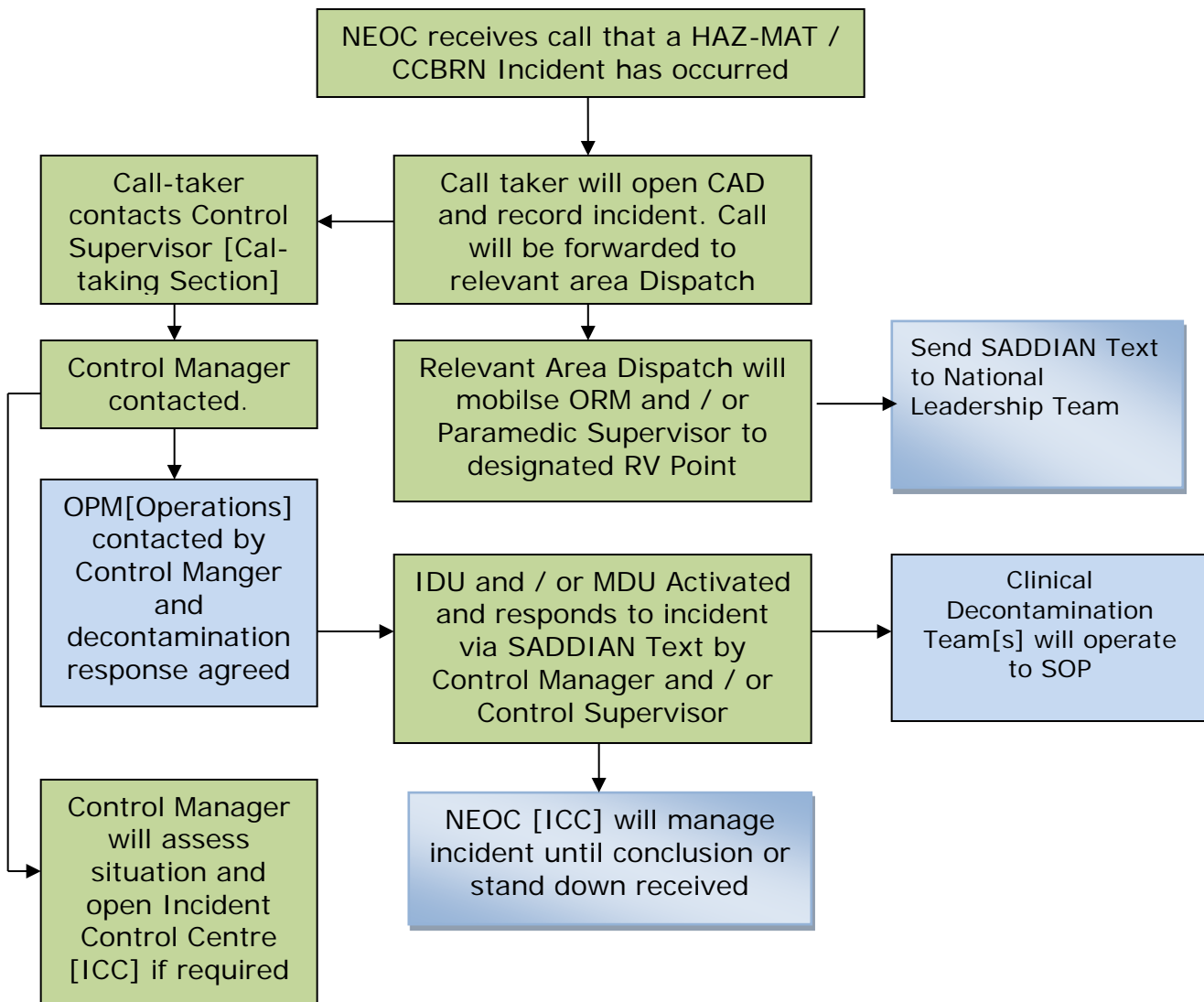
**Appendix II
NAS Clinical Decontamination Team Mobilisation Flow-chart
CCBRN / HAZ-MAT Incidents**



NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: 1 Approval date: 10th August 2015

Appendix III

HSE/NAS National Emergency Operations Centre. HAZ-MAT / CCBRN Incident Procedure



NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: I Approval date: 10th August 2015

Appendix IV
Group Text Messages

Chemical Incident Alert Texts
Green Chemical Alert
Text will read: Green Chemical Alert Incident Location: Time of Incident:
Yellow Chemical Alert
Text will read: Yellow Chemical Alert Incident Location: Number of Contaminated Casualties: Time of Incident:
Red Chemical Alert
Text will read: Red Chemical Alert Incident Location: Number of Contaminated Casualties: Time of Incident:

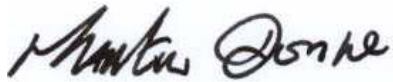
10.0 REVISION HISTORY: (This captures any changes that are made to an SOP when it has been revised).

No	Revision No	Date	Section Amended	Approved by

NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: I Approval date: 10th August 2015

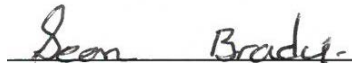
Signatures of Approval

All persons must sign and date this page after they have read and understood the Standard Operation Procedure.



Director of the National Ambulance Service
On Behalf of the National Ambulance Service

Date 20/10/18



National Control Operations Manager
National Emergency Operations Centres

Date 20/10/18

NASNEOC05 Activation Procedure for Clinical Decontamination Teams.
Revision: 1 Approval date: 10th August 2015