

# La Plata Police Department – Emergency Operation Plan

	Title: <b>Environmental Disasters</b>		Annex: <b>EOP-37</b>		
	Effective Date: March 21, 2014		Review Date:		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Amends <input type="checkbox"/> Rescinds				
Approved by: <b>Chief Carl Schinner</b>				CALEA 5 <sup>th</sup> Edition	
CALEA Standard: 46.1.2				Pages: 3	

**01 PURPOSE:** The purpose of this annex is to supplement the *Natural-and-Man-Made Disasters* portion of the Emergency Operations Plan. Used in conjunction with the La Plata Police Department’s emergency plans, this annex provides general guidelines for use by first-responders to incidents where the environment has actually or potentially been adversely impacted by the intentional or unintentional discharge, release, or dumping of chemicals, substances, or materials. This would include storm drains, lakes, creeks, stream valleys, tributaries, and the ground. These guidelines are intended to be flexible since no two situations are the same, and to allow first-responders to adapt to rapidly changing conditions.

**02 ASSUMPTIONS:**

- A. An Environmental Disaster usually results from hazardous materials being released - intentionally or unintentionally - in a waterway, storm drain, or into the air.
- B. For the purpose of this Annex, hazardous materials refer to any quantity of flammable, combustible, corrosive, oxidizing, explosive, poisonous, infectious, radioactive, or any other toxic material that causes death or destruction to living cells, or, which their nature, are dangerous to the environment. Substances may or may not be flammable and are found as a solid, liquid, or gas.
- C. The role of police officers in an environmental disaster is a limited one, yet no less important. In many instances, police officers are the first to arrive at an incident, or have found a situation on patrol or as the result of responding to a citizen complaint.
- D. The timely and effective response by officers, and their quick but thorough assessment of the scene, is crucial to ultimately controlling the incident in order to minimize any harm to the environment.
- E. Trained fire/rescue personnel will be responsible for the initial mitigation of the incident.

**03 PLAN:**

**A. ON-DUTY SHIFT SUPERVISORS SHOULD:**

1. Be cognizant of the fact that:
  - a. Representatives from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) have primary responsibility for the prevention of water pollution from petroleum products.
  - b. Representatives from the Charles County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provide monitoring of flammable environments.
2. Be aware that upon fire/rescue arrival, they will:
  - a. Respond to the scene and determine whether released materials constitute a hazard.
  - b. Coordinate expedient action to remove or dispose of the released material in such a manner that contaminants do not enter into the water system through sewers, streams, ponds, or drainage ditches.
3. Notify the County's DEP of the circumstances of the release, the party responsible, and materials expended.
4. Consider the need for allied agency assistance (Maryland State Police, Charles County Sheriff's Department, etc.).
5. Transfer direction and control of the scene to the senior DEP representative on the scene when the hazard is controlled.
6. Prior to the arrival of fire/rescue, establish a command post near the scene, upwind, updrift, and upstream, if possible.
7. Ensure notifications of Command Staff members.
8. Treat the scene as a crime scene until determined otherwise.
9. As officer safety will permit, and as necessary, designate officers to cordon off the area using crime scene tape, barricades, etc., and isolate and secure the scene, and control and divert traffic.
10. After fire/rescue arrives, participate in a *unified command post* (until arrival of Command Staff) and respond to requests for assistance from fire/rescue or the DEP representative when in-charge of the scene.

11. Coordinate any evacuations with fire/rescue (a decision to be made by the fire/rescue incident commander).

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES / CRIMES:** The MDE is the lead agency in the State for environmental issues and the Attorney General 's Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) is the principal investigative/prosecutorial office for environmental crimes.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Main Number</b>	<b>After Hours</b>
Environmental Crimes	Environmental Crimes Unit	1-800-633-6101 x3025	1-800-525-5555
Air Pollution	Air/Radiation Mgt. Admin.	1-800-633-6101 x3215	(410) 243-8700
Hazardous Waste	MDE Emrg. Respns Pgm.	(410) 333-2950	(410) 974-3551
Litterng/Solid Waste Vio.	MDE Waste Mgt. Admin.	1-800-633-6101 x3364	(410) 974-3551
Medical/Infectious Waste	MDE Emrg. Respns Pgm.	(410) 333-2950	(410) 974-3551
Water Pollution	Water Management Admin.	1-800-633-6101 x3409	(410) 243-8700
Issue Not Listed Above	MD Dept. of Environment	1-800-633-6101	1-800-633-6101