

PRIORITIES

1. Life Safety
2. Control/Contain/Stop Leak
3. Environmental Safety
4. Business & Financial Recovery

AMMONIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE POCKET GUIDE



International
Association of
Refrigerated
Warehouses

LIFE SAFETY

1

- ☐ Evacuate Immediate Area
Remember: Move Laterally & Upwind
- ☐ Shelter In Place options
- ☐ Obtain Head Count
- ☐ Injuries? On Site/Off Site
- ☐ Initial First Aid
- ☐ Water, Water, Water
- ☐ Move to Fresh Air
- ☐ 911 (Location to Meet – Liaison)
- ☐ Secure the Area

SIZE UP/INITIAL RESPONSE

2

- ☐ What is Leaking?
- ☐ Where is it Leaking?
- ☐ Release Rate/Max. Possible Loss?
- ☐ Container Size/Current Inventory?
- ☐ Type of Release? (Invisible Vapor? White Cloud? Dense Gas from Liquid Source? Pooling Liquid on the Ground?)
- ☐ Weather Conditions? – Release Effect (Wet/cold – can hug the ground, Narrow vs. Wide “V” Cloud?)
- ☐ Identify Downwind Threats?

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

3

- ☐ Prevent Run Off
- ☐ Protect Storm Drains & Sewer Drains

INCIDENT COMMAND (ICS)

4

Who is on the Scene?

- ☐ First in Fire Dept. (Paid/Volunteer)
 - o Probably OPS Level Trained
- ☐ HazMat Team
- ☐ Public Sector/Contracted/Facility Team/other
- ☐ Medic/EMS Units
- ☐ Federal/State/Local Emergency Mgmt.
- ☐ Regulatory Agencies (OSHA/EPA/other)
- ☐ Law Enforcement (Local/State/Federal)

INCIDENT COMMAND (ICS)

5

Who is IC?

- ☐ IC name, site contact number
- ☐ IC Liaison – name, contact number
- ☐ Facility/Scene Contact – name, contact number
- ☐ Training Levels
 - o Awareness, Operations, Technician, IC
 - o Ops – Defensive Actions Only

EPA RELEASE NOTIFICATIONS

6

IMMEDIATE

- ☐ -NRC, SERC, LEPC
- ☐ -NRC = 800-424-8802 – get Log #

RESPONSE PLAN

7

Gather Information – SDS/MSDS, ERG, Personnel, IARW *Guide to Effective Warehouse Crisis Management*

Resources – Who is contracting?

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CONSIDERATIONS

8

- ☐ Positive Valve Repair
- ☐ Transfer of Material
- ☐ Leak Amount – Secure Area and Monitor Only
- ☐ **Control & Contain**
- ☐ Tarp & Cover
- ☐ Remote Isolation/Shut Off

OTHER HAZARDS

9

- ☐ Ensure no chemical reactivity issues
- ☐ Ammonia is a Strong Base/Alkali
- ☐ **Indoor**
 - ☐ **DO NOT ENTER A VISIBLE CLOUD**
 - ☐ Ventilate (positive or negative)
 - ☐ Eliminate/Control ignition sources
- ☐ **Outdoor**
 - ☐ Identify Downwind Threats

WHERE & WHEN TO USE WATER

10

- ☐ No water on liquid anhydrous pools
- ☐ No water on leaking container/equipment unless there is heat impingement (fire, etc.)
- ☐ Use water for First Aid
- ☐ Use water downwind of release to knock down vapor cloud – contain run off

TERMINATION & BUSINESS RECOVERY

11

- ☐ Air monitoring and run off considerations
- ☐ Warehouse Temperature Monitoring
- ☐ Clean up contractors – Financial Responsibility
- ☐ Transportation issues
- ☐ Insurance issues
- ☐ Alternate shipping locations
- ☐ Product Quality Assurance
- ☐ Contact w/field personnel, customers, and contractors

DOCUMENTATION

12

- ☐ **Keep INCIDENT LOG** – Times/Names/Info

FOUR CALL DATA

1. Local Fire Department
2. National Response Center (NRC)
3. State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)
4. Local Emergency Planning Committee (EPC)

**For additional information, contact
IARW at +1 703 373 4300.**