

Best environmental practice when managing hazardous material incidents

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Hazardous material incidents have the potential to affect all segments of the environment, depending upon the scale, location and materials involved.

The Melbourne Fire and Emergency Services Board is leading a project aimed at assisting AFAC member agencies to work towards best practice in environmental care when responding to and managing hazardous materials incidents.

Work so far has shown that while member agencies of the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) are aware of the environmental impacts of hazardous materials, there is a great difference in approaches used by member agencies to integrate environmental considerations in their operations. This work suggests that a consistent national approach to supporting and managing environmental issues would be beneficial.

The project is being conducted in collaboration with AFAC's Environmental Management and Hazardous Materials Work Groups. The project aims to produce National Best Practice Guidelines for Environmental Protection during response to and recovery from hazardous material incidents.

This poster summarises the findings from this project to date, and outlines draft guidelines for comment.

Key Words

Hazardous material, environment, guideline, Australia