

On March 31, 2009 fourteen members of the Norfolk Fire Division's Regional Hazardous Materials response team participated in a hazardous chemical classification training session. The 8 hour course was comprised of both classroom and hands-on experience in identifying chemicals by their hazard class. The purpose of this class was to instruct Haz-Mat Technicians on how to use qualitative test tube analysis to identify a chemical hazard for liquids, solids, sludges and mixtures. The chemical hazards that can be determined are as follows:

Acids, acid oxidizers, bases, base oxidizers, flammables, chlorinated hydrocarbons, cyanides, sulfides and toxics.



The Haz-Mat Technicians practiced with sample chemicals using techniques to determine what hazard class to put the chemical in. The importance of this analysis is:

1. Determination of DOT hazard class for placarding and labeling for transport.
2. Rapid assessment of onsite chemical hazards.

3. Selection of immediate mitigation measures, such as segregation of incompatible materials.

4. Bulking material to consolidate waste for disposal.

5. Reduction of number of samples necessary for laboratory analysis.



Haz-Mat Technicians learned a systematic approach on how to utilize their sample kit, use of proper personal protective equipment and how to utilize the flow chart to achieve the best productivity during chemical classification. The Norfolk Fire Division Hazardous Material Technicians continually train to better serve the region.



