

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 7271.1

**Date of response:** 21/03/2023

**Request:**

I am looking for more information about the different levels of HazMat incidents (level 1, level 2, level 3, level 4, etc). Is it possible to receive a list of the levels along with a brief description of each?

**Response:**

Further to your request, please see below for the information requested regarding HAZMAT incident levels.

## **7 Operational procedure**

7.1 The IC must conduct a risk assessment (RA), and determine:

- Life risk.
- Threat to the environment.
- If the intervention of the LFB is appropriate.
- HAZMAT involved.
- Safe system of work and PPE.
- Resources required.
- Specialist advice required.

7.2 Brigade control will mobilise either a level 1 or level 2 pre-determined attendance to HAZMAT incidents depending on what has been reported by the caller. The IC will request any additional resources required to resolve the incident safely.

7.3 A level 1 incident is a single appliance attendance to deal with an incident of limited risk to our crews and/or the environment. Level 1 incidents are as follows:

- (a) Small spills of fuel, engine oil, limited to the contents of the vehicles fuel tank.
- (b) Call to a reported natural gas leak, carbon monoxide detector actuating or thermometer mercury spill.

7.4 A level 2 incident is the full HAZMAT pre-determined attendance and consists of two pumping appliances and a fire rescue unit (FRU) for firefighter decontamination. A HMEPO and monitoring officer will also be mobilised to advise the IC.

7.5 A level 3 incident is a large scale HAZMATs incident and is supported with an initial PDA of an additional 2 pumping appliances, FRU for Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM) and the Scientific Support Unit (SSU). The monitoring Station Commander from the level 2 attendance should take charge and a Group Commander is sent for monitoring. If further resources are required, these should be requested as normal and does not make the incident a level 4.

7.6 If, due to bulk GTS wearers being committed (bulk being 10 or more wearers in rapid succession) then a Hughes shower for decontamination should be requested.

7.7 Requests for a level 3 attendance should be made by a priority request to talk, stating the incident is now a level 3 HAZMATs incident and, when needed, an IRU for Hughes shower required.

7.8 In the event of bulk GTS being used at the incident, the request for the Hughes shower should not preclude the IC from getting to work as FRUs in attendance can provide all levels of FF decontamination. The purpose of the Hughes shower is to increase the ability to store waste generated during decontamination and is not to increase the speed of the decontamination process.

7.9 Level 4 incidents are defined as: incidents attracting special mobilising criteria and not necessarily large attendances. The PDA for a level 4 incident is determined by Brigade control in consultation with the duty NILO and/or an HMEPO.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>