

CALIFORNIA CODES

GOVERNMENT CODE

SECTION 8574.19-8574.23

8574.19. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that, in order to protect the public health and safety and the environment, and to reduce personal injury and property loss resulting from the sudden release of **hazardous substances** into the environment, it is necessary to establish a single, coordinated, and standardized **hazardous substances** incident response training and education plan for firefighters and law enforcement, emergency rescue, and environmental health personnel. A standardized **hazardous substances** incident response training and education program is necessary to ensure a coordinated emergency response capability throughout the state, and to eliminate duplicative and inconsistent **hazardous substances** emergency response training and education programs.

(b) In enacting this article, the Legislature recognizes that it is necessary to designate a single state agency to be responsible for the development of minimum standards relative to course content and subject matter for training and education of **hazardous** substance incident response personnel in order to avoid duplication of effort and inconsistent applications of safety procedures and protocols. The Legislature does not intend, by enacting this article, to preempt or nullify any **hazardous** substance incident response procedures and protocols which take into account existing conditions peculiar to a locality or region.

(c) For purposes of this article, "program" means the California **Hazardous Substances** Incident Response Training and Education Program established pursuant to Section 8574.20.

8574.20. Not later than 18 months after the effective date of this article, the Office of Emergency Services shall establish and manage the California **Hazardous Substances** Incident Response Training and Education Program to provide approved classes in **hazardous** substance response, taught by trained instructors, and to certify students who have completed these classes. To carry out this program, the Office of Emergency Services shall do all of the following:

(a) Adopt regulations necessary to implement the program.

(b) Establish a training and education program by developing the curriculum to be used in the program in colleges, academies, the California Specialized Training Institute, and other educational institutions, as specified in Section 8574.21.

(c) Establish recommended minimum standards for training emergency response personnel and instructors, including, but not limited to, fire, police, and environmental health personnel.

(d) Make available a training and education program in the use of **hazardous substances** emergency rescue, safety, and monitoring equipment, on a voluntary basis, at the California Specialized Training Institute.

(e) Train and certify instructors at the California Specialized Training Institute according to standards and procedures developed by the curriculum development advisory committee, as specified in Section 8574.21.

(f) Approve classes, as meeting the requirements of the program, if the classes meet the curriculum developed by the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to Section 8574.21 and the instructor received training and certification at the California Specialized Training Institute, as specified in subdivision (e).

(g) Certify students who have successfully completed a class approved as meeting the requirements of the program.

(h) Review and revise, as necessary, the program.

(i) Establish and collect admission fees and other fees that may be necessary to be charged for advanced or specialized training given at the California Specialized Training Institute. These fees shall be used to offset costs incurred pursuant to this article.

8574.21. (a) The Office of Emergency Services shall develop the curriculum to be used in classes that meet the program requirements and shall adopt standards and procedures for training instructors at the California Specialized Training Institute.

(b) The curriculum for the training and education program established pursuant to this article shall include all of the following aspects of **hazardous** substance incident response actions:

(1) First responder training.

- (2) On-scene manager training.
- (3) **Hazardous** substance incident response training for management personnel.
- (4) **Hazardous** materials specialist training that equals or exceeds the standards of the National Fire Protection Association.
- (5) Environmental monitoring.
- (6) **Hazardous** substance release investigations.
- (7) **Hazardous** substance incident response activities at ports.
- (c) The Office of Emergency Services shall establish a curriculum development advisory committee, which shall consist of a representative from each of the following agencies or organizations:

- (1) The Office of Emergency Services.
- (2) The Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- (3) The Department of Toxic **Substances** Control.
- (4) The Department of Fish and Game.
- (5) The State Water Resources Control Board.
- (6) The Department of the California Highway Patrol.
- (7) The California Police Chiefs' Association.
- (8) The California Fire Chiefs' Association.
- (9) The Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training.
- (10) The California District Attorneys' Association.
- (11) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- (12) The Emergency Medical Services Authority.
- (13) The Department of Transportation.
- (14) The Environmental Protection Agency.
- (15) The Chemical Industry Council of California.
- (16) The California Manufacturers Association.
- (17) The California Conference of Local Health Officers.
- (18) The University of California.
- (19) The California State Fireman's Association.
- (20) The California State University.
- (21) The California Professional Firefighters.
- (22) The California Association of Highway Patrolmen.
- (23) The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.
- (d) The curriculum development advisory committee shall advise the Office of Emergency Services on the development of course curricula

and the standards and procedures specified in subdivision (a). In advising the Office of Emergency Services, the committee shall do the following:

(1) Assist, and cooperate with, representatives of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges in developing the course curricula.

(2) Ensure that the curriculum developed pursuant to this section is accredited by the State Board of Fire Services.

(3) Define equivalent training and experience considered as meeting the initial training requirements as specified in subdivision (a) that existing employees might have already received from actual experience or formal education undertaken, and which would qualify as meeting the requirements established pursuant to this article.

(e) The representative from the Office of Emergency Services shall serve as the chairperson of the curriculum development advisory committee.

(f) After the course curricula and standards are established pursuant to subdivision (a), the curriculum development advisory committee shall meet at least once each year to review the program and advise the Office of Emergency Services on any required revisions.

(g) The Office of Emergency Services shall make the curriculum development advisory committee a subcommittee of the Curriculum Advisory Board of the California Specialized Training Institute.

(h) This article does not affect the authority of the State Fire Marshal granted pursuant to Section 13142.4 or 13159 of the Health and Safety **Code**.

(i) Upon completion of instructor training and certification pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 8574.20 by any employee of the Department of the California Highway Patrol, the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol may deem any training programs taught by that employee to be equivalent to any training program meeting the requirements established pursuant to this article.

8574.22. The Office of Emergency Services may hire professional and clerical staff pursuant to the State Civil Service Act (Part 2 (commencing with Section 18500) of Division 5 of Title 2). However,

any person employed pursuant to this section shall be employed only at the California Specialized Training Institute.

8574.23. Not later than 18 months after the effective date of this article, the Office of Emergency Services shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the implementation of this article, including the locations of any classes and any recommendations for future legislative or administrative action.