**Hazardous Materials: Managing the Incident, Fourth Edition**

**Chapter 12: Terminating the Incident**

**Chief Concepts**

* Termination is the final step in the Eight Step Process©. It is important that every hazmat incident be formally terminated following a formal procedure.
* Terminating the incident usually consists of five distinct activities:

(1) declaring that the incident is “Terminated” either by radio or in a face-to-face meeting,

(2) officially transferring responsibility of the incident scene to another agency or contractor,

(3) incident debriefing,

(4) postincident analysis, and (5) critique.

* The incident debriefing is done at the incident scene, lasts less than 15 minutes, and focuses on safety and health exposure issues.
* When the decision has been made to terminate the emergency response phase and additional work is still required at the scene for restoration and recovery, the IC should meet with the senior representatives from the agencies or contractors taking over to formally hand off the incident scene.
* The post-incident analysis is conducted after the incident is over. It is a focused effort to gather information concerning what actually happened, why it happened, and who the responsible parties are. It also provides a record of resources and events, which may affect the public
* health, financial resources, and political well-being of a community.
* The critique is usually conducted within several weeks after the incident is terminated. It is designed to emphasize successful, as well as unsuccessful, operations and to improve the emergency response system. To be successful, management must support the critique process and action items must be tracked to ensure they are implemented.
* The critique process can reveal critical information about our weaknesses and vulnerabilities that can be exploited by criminals and terrorists. A strong critique program designed to improve the emergency response system reduces potential liability by helping to ensure that the organization is committed to constant improvement and meeting the highest standards in the industry.