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

**Chapter 4: The Eight Step Process© An Overview**

**Chief Concepts**

* Emergency response operations at incidents involving hazardous materials must always be based on a structured and standardized system of response protocols and procedures. Regardless of the nature of the incident, the nature of the response, or the personnel involved, a reliance on standardized procedures will bring consistency to the tactical operation and facilitate the delivery of a risk-based operational response capability. If the situation potentially involves hazardous materials or WMD agents, this reliance on standardized tactical response procedures will help minimize the risk of exposure to all responders.
* The Eight Step Process© is a tool used for the tactical management of hazardous materials emergencies. It serves as an example of a structured system that can be used by response personnel at incidents involving hazardous substances and materials.
* Although the level of equipment, training, and personnel may vary among organizations, there are fundamental functions and tasks that must be evaluated and implemented on a consistent basis. The Eight Step Process© provides a necessary framework to translate planning and preparedness into the delivery of an effective system for responding to and investigating incidents where hazardous materials and WMDs may be involved.
* The eight functions within the Eight Step Process© are:
1. Site Management and Control
2. Identify the Problem
3. Hazard Assessment and Risk Evaluation
4. Select Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment
5. Information Management and Resource Coordination
6. Implement Response Objectives
7. Decon and Clean-Up Operations
8. Terminate the Incident