The Central NH Hazmat Team (and all NH hazmat teams) are moving away from our past decontamination practices. Wet decon will be abandoned in favor of dry decon. I have included some information from Wikipedia below for an overview of the change. Please attend the training offered in the attachment to get your people up to speed with the new procedure. I will send this through IamResponding to all of your members also. All compact agencies are welcome to attend. Please be sure to RSVP by e-mailing mcostello@concordnh.gov

Dry decontamination is a method of decontaminating (or removing contaminants like chemicals, biological particles, or other liquids, gasses, or solids) that requires no water or other liquids. Decontamination is an essential job duty of hazmat responders as it protects victims from harmful reactions to the contaminants.

Dry decontamination is a relatively recent addition to decontamination and is especially useful in cold weather conditions or when water is scarce or difficult to transport. **Dry decontamination** reduces the size and manpower requirements of the decontamination line and eliminates the issue of having to purchase excess equipment that becomes ineffective due to storage or infrequent use

Advantages of dry decontamination

Dry decontamination reduces concerns associated with cold weather decontamination while also speeding up the decontamination process by allowing victims to self-decontaminate (or be decontaminated by a first responder with minimal cross contamination). In addition, some contaminants are water-reactive and wet decontamination methods may only increase the potential hazards.

Time Effectiveness

The deployment of a **dry decontamination** system allows the victim to assist in his/her own decontamination. In addition, **dry decon** operations are expedited by allowing for the quick removal of contaminants from the victim's skin, which reduces the amount of time a victim is in contact with the contamination (which therefore reduces the potential harm caused).

Cold weather decontamination

Because hypothermia when conducting decontamination in temperatures below 36 °F, **dry decontamination** can be an effective solution that prevents more casualties as a result of hypothermia.[2] Other sources recommend wet decontamination be avoided in external temperatures of below 65 °F to avoid adverse effects of cold shock.

Logistical Issues

Wet decontamination lines require not only a water source, but occasionally electricity for deployment. As a rule, **dry decontamination** is faster both in deployment and clean-up as it does not require an immediate water supply, contaminated water collection basin, resources (like hoses, nozzles, shelters, and other large pieces of equipment), or a large number of personnel.