



12th ANNUAL FLORIDA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM COMPETITION

COMPETITION RULES



Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Volusia County Fire Training Facility
3889 Tiger Bay Road • Daytona Beach, Florida

Awards announced at HazMat Team Party

Wednesday Evening, January 14, 2026

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

(Location to be Announced)



12th ANNUAL FLORIDA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM COMPETITION

[REGISTER YOUR TEAM HERE](#)

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMPETITION MISSION

Strengthen the knowledge, skills, and response capabilities of Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams through competition and learning.

IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES FOR 2026

For the 2026 competition, two new rules will take effect.

All competing teams must register prior to the published deadline.

The mathematical calculations used in scoring are determined in advance of the start of the competition based upon the number of competing teams that are registered. Last minute changes to these factors cannot be made. Therefore, all teams must be registered prior to the published registration deadline. No walk-ins or later registrations will be accepted.

No Hybrid Teams Permitted

The intent of the competition is to allow established teams, supported by their organizations, to engage in a competition to enhance the skills of all teams. Competing teams are welcome from both Florida and out of state. Teams must be comprised of members from the same organization or established regional HazMat teams. Teams comprised of members from multiple organizations developed for the sole purpose of participating in the competition will not be permitted.

Organization Membership Documentation Requirements

At check-in, all competition team members are required to show photo ID issued by their supporting department or agency.



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IMPORTANT DATES and TIMES

All information and registration links can be found at
www.flhazmatsymposium.org/competiton

Rules Released & Initial Team
Registration Period Opens

Monday, October 27, 2025

Initial Registration Period ends,
Extended Registration Period
begins. Second organizational teams
are now allowed.

Friday, December 12, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

All team registration closes

Friday, January 2, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

Competition Date:

January 13, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.
Volusia Fire Training Facility
3889 Tiger Bay Road
Daytona Beach, Florida

Team Check-in:

January 13, 2025
8:00-8:30 a.m. Team Staging Room

Mandatory Rules and Safety
Briefing:

January 13, 2026
8:30 a.m. Team Staging Room
All competitors must be present.

Competition Times:

9:00 a.m., First two teams enter competition
Ending 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., depending upon the
number of teams.

Awards Ceremony:

Wednesday Evening, January 14, 2026
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Hazardous Materials Team Party
Location to be announced

[REGISTER YOUR TEAM HERE](#)



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Developed and managed by:



Sponsored by:



The 2026 Florida Hazardous Materials Team Competition is made possible by the Florida State Emergency Response Commission, the Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium and the numerous volunteers and sponsors who contribute time and resources to the program.

REGISTRATION and TEAM MAKE-UP

All competing teams must be associated with, and supported by a local, state or federal government agency or other emergency response organization. Teams must register under the name of their sponsoring organization or regionally established team. Team members assembled from various organizations for the sole purpose of competing (hybrid teams) are not permitted. Proof of organization employment or membership is required at the time of check-in.

This year, there will be a maximum of 14 teams. During the initial registration period ending December 13, organizations may only register one team.

If the total field of 14 teams is not filled during the Initial Registration Period, an Extended Period will be opened. During this extended period, initial team registration will continue. Second teams from an organization will now be permitted to register a maximum of two teams per organization. All slots will be filled on a **first-come, first-serve basis until either the field is filled with 14 teams or until the final deadline of 5:00 p.m. January 2, 2026, is reached. No late registrations and no walk-ins will be permitted.**

All competition teams shall be comprised of three (3) primary team members and one (1) optional alternate. The alternate may only be used if one of the primary team members becomes physically incapable of continuing the competition. Otherwise, mid-competition



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substitutions with the alternate will not be permitted. The alternate may travel from station to station with the team to observe. Except for assisting with PPE dress-out, the alternate cannot assist or coach the primary members during the competition. **Any coaching or assistance by the alternate member will constitute grounds for team disqualification.** The standards utilized for the development of this competition are drawn from:

- Current Florida SERC HazMat Technician training task book,
- NFPA Standard 470, Chapter 10 “Competencies for Hazardous Materials / WMD Technician”.

This year’s challenge will involve 10 scored stations. Each station will last 15 minutes with 5 minutes of station evaluator discretionary and travel/reset time. During travel/reset times, team members must remain in designated locations as directed by competition staff.

Station No. & Topic	
Hazard Analysis	1 – Field Screening
	2 – Product Hazard Analysis
	3 – Escape Room
	4 – HazMat Knowledge Check
	5 – Container Knowledge and Evaluation
	6 – Staging (not scored)
Incident Response	7 – Mission Overview / Equipment Selection
	8 – Pre-Entry, Dress-out Operations
	9 – Entry Operations
	10 – Leak Control Situation
	11 – The Game
	12 – Rehab (not scored)

Special note: During Product Hazard Analysis, each member will be challenged to conduct a rapid initial product hazard analysis of two products within 15 minutes using their knowledge and available resource materials. Available electronic resources will include: CAMEO Chemicals, ERDSS (www.ChemicalCompanion.org), DOT ERG, and the NIOSH Pocket Guide. Available additional printed information resources will include: DOT ERG, NIOSH Pocket Guide, CHRIS Manuals, and the Condensed Chemical Dictionary.



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AWARDS

AWARDS
1 st Place
2 nd Place
3 rd Place
Individual Best – Hazard Analysis (Stations 1,2,4 & 5)
Individual Best Leadership (Evaluator Consensus Stations 7 - 10)
HazMat Knowledge Guru (Station 4 & 5)
Individual Best Game Score (Station 11)

TEAM EQUIPMENT

Teams will be required to bring SCBA. Training garments will be provided onsite at no cost by Kappler, Inc. **In-suit radio communications will not be permitted.** This is to ensure that there is no outside coaching by observers. Logistical Support for out-of-state teams traveling by air may be available by contacting the Symposium or Competition management.

SAFETY

The competition shall be managed using an Incident Action Plan (IAP), including a designated Safety Officer and ICS 215A. The Safety Officer has the authority to suspend, alter, or terminate any activity deemed to be a safety risk to participants or competition staff.

CHECK-IN AND PROCESSING

Check-in starts promptly at **8:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2026**, in the Volusia Fire Training Facility staging area. All team members and equipment (including SCBAs) must be present to register. Those needing SCBA fills should plan an earlier arrival.

Requirements for check-in:

- An organization photo identification for each team member from a private sector or governmental organization.
- Any organization-specific PPE equipment, such as lights and non-radio in-suit communication devices, must be brought to check-in. SCBAs will be secured in a staging area.



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- **No electronic communication devices, including cell phones, portable radios, web-enabled devices, and other forms of external communications, will be permitted within the competition perimeter, including staging. Failure to follow this rule shall constitute grounds for immediate team disqualification.**
- **NO video, photography, or audio recordings inside the competition areas will be permitted. Photos and videos can be taken by spectators from outside the sequestered perimeter.**
- Lunch will be provided by Florida Task Force IV Food Unit.
- We recommend that teams bring beverages and snacks to the staging area. Bottled water will be provided.

Check-in activities:

- Team members' identities will be verified with organization-issued photo I.D. They will then be registered and issued participant cards.
- Only authorized personal dress-out supplies or equipment previously discussed will be permitted. Any questions concerning allowable equipment should be addressed **IN ADVANCE** by contacting info@responsetechnologies.com.
- Filling of SCBA's will be available onsite until 0830. **No SCBA cylinders will be filled after the start of the safety briefing.**
- **Photo Video Release:** The competition will be livestreamed to the main conference area and available for public access. Therefore, all competition participants will be required to sign a photo/video release allowing for the transmission and future use of individual participant images by the Florida Hazardous Materials Symposium, its sponsors, and Response Technologies Corporation.

After check-in:

- All team members will be held in the staging area. **All team members must be registered and in the staging area by no later than 0830 hrs. Any late team member not in the staging area by 0830 hours may be disqualified from participation.**
- Except for the restrooms located immediately next to the staging area, team members will not be allowed to leave the staging room. Any need to leave the staging area will be evaluated by competition command on a case-by-case basis and, if deemed necessary, will be facilitated by an escort.
- Mandatory Competition pre-entry and safety briefing will start at 0830 hrs.
- During the briefing, there will be a drawing for team start times. Two teams will be started at scheduled times every 20 minutes beginning at 0900 based upon an established timetable.
- Teams will be escorted to their starting point.



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- All team members must remain in the staging area until they enter their next competition station.
- **Any communication by competition participants with persons or information sources outside the competition area shall result in the immediate disqualification of the team from competition.**
- Any travel by competition participants to areas outside the sequestered area must be approved by command and escorted by competition staff.

After-Competing

- After you have completed all your assigned stations, team members must return to staging for debriefing and demobilization.
- Depending upon the number of competing teams, all teams should be completed between 1400 and 1600 hours.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Competition staff will compile scoring to determine awards. All decisions by the competition evaluation team are final. Awards shall be made during the Florida Hazardous Materials Competition Party on Wednesday evening, starting at 7:00 p.m. January 14, 2026, at a location to be announced.

Check the Symposium schedule for the time and location of the “**Game-On: Presentation for 2026**” presentation that will be held on Thursday, January 15th. A scoring summary will be available to each competing team. This presentation will provide useful information to current and potential future competition teams to help them tighten their skills.

REGISTER YOUR TEAM HERE

Initial Registration will close 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 12, 2025

Extended Registration will close 5:00 p.m. Friday January 2, 2026

Questions can be directed to the competition management team at:

info@responsetechnologies.com

Additional Symposium Information can be found at:

www.flhazmatsymposium.org