

# DDCT's Hazardous Spill Procedures Put to the Test

By Danny Kolb, DDCT

At about 0930 on Friday morning, March 1, 2002, Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, Texas (DDCT) Receiving Branch personnel opened a delivery truck and detected a very strong, unusual odor. The delivery manifest indicated hazardous material was on board. Believing the odor was from a spill, hazardous spill procedures were implemented immediately.

DDCT's Safety Officer, Ms. Jennifer Crossland, was notified and took charge of the situation. She instructed personnel to close off the area and told the truck driver to pull away from the receiving dock. She then notified the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire Department's Hazardous Spill Response Team and the Station's Environmental Office.

The Spill Response Team assessed the situation and directed the truck move to a storage lot across the street. Once done, the storage lot was secured, traffic diverted, and the investigation begun.

The response team, in full hazardous gear, entered the truck's cargo compartment and determined it would be necessary to remove the entire load to locate the source of the suspicious odor. DDCT provided the necessary material handling equipment.

It was found that the spilled substance was paint thinner—a flammable, noxious liquid. The response team put the leaking item in an over pack and disposed of it, then did the required clean up. Once completed, the remaining items were released back to the Receiving Branch for normal processing.

“We train regularly for incidents like this,” said LTC Teodoro Velazquez, USA, DDCT Commander, “and it is gratifying to see the training implemented flawlessly. The DDCT team pulled together as it should and worked quickly, effectively, and professionally.”



*NAS Corpus Christi  
Hazardous Material  
team respond  
to a spill  
at DDCT.*



**WORK  
SAFELY**