

DOE/LANL Jurisdiction

Fire Danger Rating:

Very High 🔥



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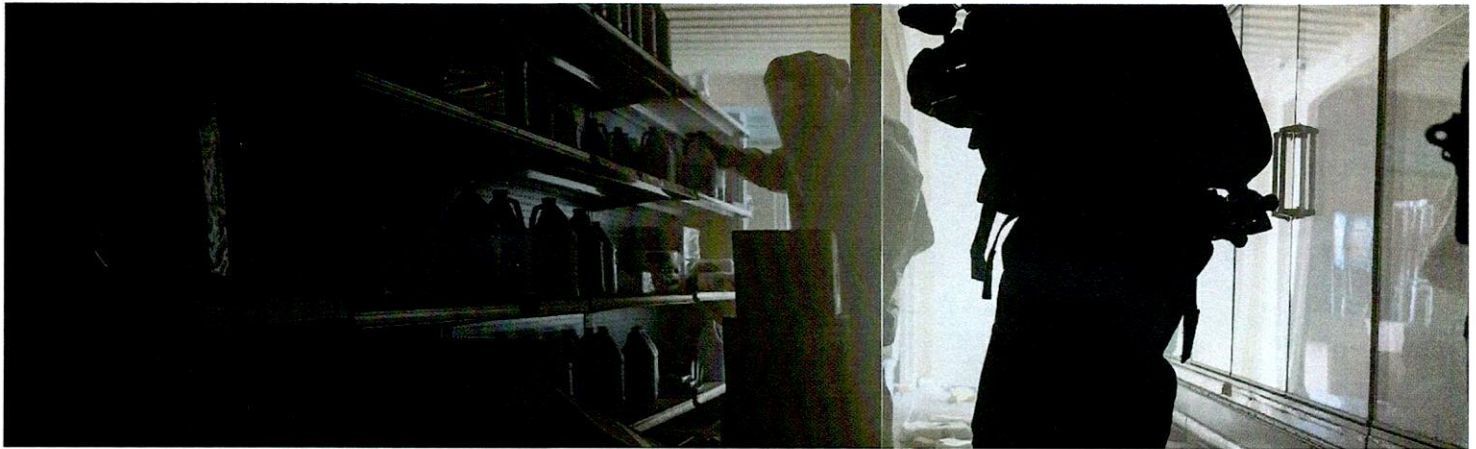


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HAZMAT Challenge

The 30th Annual HAZMAT Challenge

August 17-21, 2026

The Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Challenge is an annual training event held at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and hosted by the Emergency Management Division of Los Alamos National Laboratory.



Los Alamos National Laboratory's Haz
Los Alamos National Lab



Required Forms



Schedule



Hours may change depending on number of teams.

Monday - 8am - 5pm Training

Tuesday - 8am - 5pm Scenarios

Wednesday - 8am - 5pm Scenarios

Thursday - 8am - 5pm Scenarios

Friday - Obstacle Course and Awards Ceremonies (8am - 3pm)

Standardized Grading



Continuing Education Units



Accommodations



Los Alamos

Windgate by Wyndham, Los Alamos

Holiday Inn, Los Alamos

Hampton Inn & Suites, Los Alamos and White Rock

Espanola

Santa Claran Hotel Casino

Pojoaque

Hilton, Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder

Funding



- Preparing New Mexico, (New Mexico Departments Only)
- Sub-Grants available through the [New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#)
- [Hazardous Materials Program - NMDHSEM](#)





Hazmat Challenge 2024



Hazmat Challenge 2024

The 2026 Hazmat Challenge will be conducted in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 and NFPA 470 to ensure training certification captures:

- Refresher credit
- Continuous Education Units (CEUs)
- Competencies
- Job Performance Requirements (JPRs)

to meet Hazardous Materials Technician qualification standards.

For the past 29 years HAZMAT teams have joined the challenge for a chance to network with one another, practice technical skills, and learn new HAZMAT techniques under realistic conditions in a safe environment. The HAZMAT Challenge is an event where you can have fun and forget you are learning at the same time.

Vehicles, trucks, tankers, and rail cars are used in some of the props to mimic real-life hazardous material situations. Past Challenge scenarios have included:

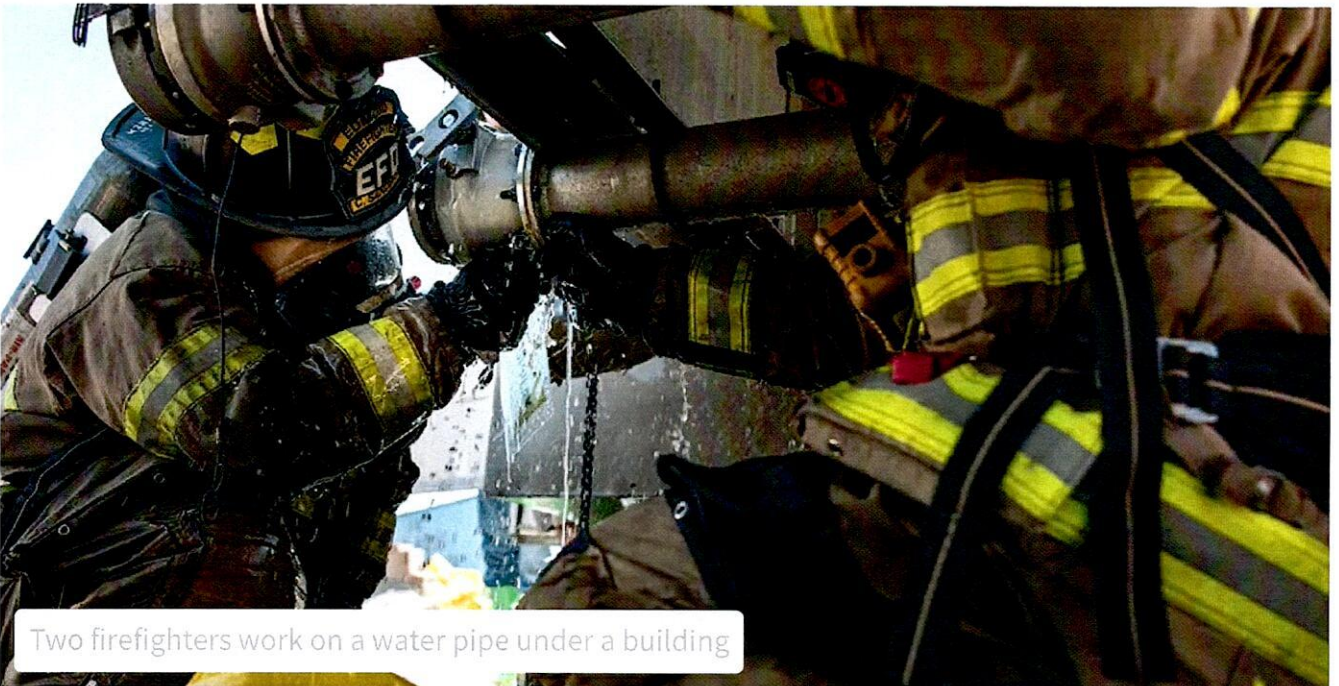
- Drug laboratory
- Chemical/Biological identification
- Complex valve trees
- Confined space rescue
- Compressed gas leaks
- Rail car scenarios
- Airplane scenarios
- Pressurized drum opening
- Drum overpacking
- Stinger operations
- Damming/diking response from an overturned tanker
- Radiological incidents
- Transportation accidents
- Technical decon



A person in a HAZMAT Level A suit walks through a foggy grocery store. There are products strewn all over the floor.



Two people in white HAZMAT Level B suits collect samples



Two firefighters work on a water pipe under a building

Registration

Team slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis with registration limited to one team per organization. There is a maximum of 8 team slots.

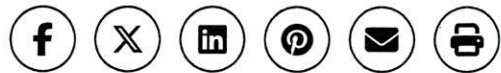
There is to be a MAX of 5 participants per team. Additional people may register but will only be able to observe the event.

Loaner PPE is available. Contact challenge staff with needs prior to your arrival.

For general information contact:

- hazmatchallenge@lanl.gov
- Berg: 505-551-2535
- Vanessa: 505-667-1700

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Contact

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30th ANNUAL HAZMAT Challenge



2026
August 17-21

Team Registration

Point of Contact

Organization: **Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office**

Name: **Kip L. Hilgers** Title: **Assistant Chief**

Mailing Address: **1521 Eugene Heimann Cir Richmond, Tx 77469**

Phone: **281-725-4238** Email: **kip.hilgers@fortbendcountytexas.gov**

Team Information (please print)			
NAME	US CITIZEN?	T-SHIRT SIZE	EMAIL
JR Whatley	Y	XXL	marion.whatley@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Paul Torres	Y	XL	paul.torres@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Tate Cappi	Y	XL	tate.cappi@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Kip Hilgers	Y	XXXL	kip.hilgers@fortbendcountytexas.gov

No one under the age of 18 is allowed on site.

T-shirts are pre-ordered per your T-shirt size.

5 players MAX per team competing.

Additional personnel may attend and need to register, but will be slotted strictly as observers or support staff and identified as so with a vest or badge.

Registration is limited to one team per organization on a first come, first served basis. Participation will be re-evaluated to determine if organizations can enter multiple teams.

Registration deadline: June 25, 2026

Email completed forms to: hazmatchallenge@lanl.gov




Questions call: 505-551-2535 or 505-309-1265

2026 HAZMAT Challenge

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Authorization

Organization/Team

Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
JR Whatley		4-27-2026
Paul Torres		4-27-2026
Tate Cappi		04-24-2026
Kip Hilgers		04/22/2026

If your organization requests LANL to supply loaner PPE indicate below

Loaner PPE Needed			How Many and/or Each Size					
	Yes	No	S	M	LG	XL	2X	3X
Level A	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input checked="" type="radio"/>						
Turnout Gear	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input checked="" type="radio"/>						
SCBAs & Masks	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input checked="" type="radio"/>						
Turnout Boots	indicate numerical	Size	N/A					
		Amount	N/A					
Chem Boots	indicate numerical	Size	N/A					
		Amount	N/A					

Initials/Signature required below. If requesting SCBA packs and masks be loaned by LANL, you must indicate you are aware that they are not annually tested or maintained. Loaner packs and masks are intended for training use only in non-hazardous environments.



The above employees are authorized per OSHA 1910.134 "Respiratory Protection" and OSHA 1910.120 "Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response" to participate in Hazardous Materials Training involving the use of:

- Wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Wearing turnout gear and an encapsulated chemical protective suit.

Justin Jurek

Printed Name

04/26/2026

Date

Fire Marshal

Title

Authorization Signature of
Physician or Employer

Email completed forms to: hazmatchallenge@lanl.gov

Questions call: 505-551-2535 or 505-309-1265

2026 HAZMAT Challenge

Waiver of Liability/Hold Harmless Agreement

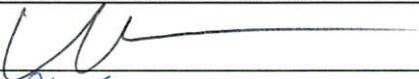

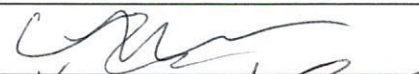
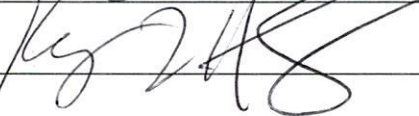
In consideration of this Hazardous Materials Response Team training and/or operations offered by Los Alamos National Security, LLC with the United States Department of Energy, the persons signed below, their family dependents, agents, heirs and assigns, does:

- Agree, freely and voluntarily, to not file, claim or sue, and to release the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos National Security (LANS), United State Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the State of New Mexico, and the United States of America, its employees and agents from any suit, damage, action, liability, any claim or nature, whatsoever, from bodily injury, death or damage to personnel and personal property, arising from their presence on the Los Alamos National Laboratory, excluding those arising solely from the unintentional misconduct of the United States of America, the United States Army, its employees and agents.
- Agree, freely and voluntarily, to indemnify, defend, and to hold harmless LANL, LANS, DOE, NNSA, the State of New Mexico and the United States of America, its employees and agents, against all liability claims, demands, suits or action of any nature, whatsoever, for or on account of any bodily injury death or damage to personnel or personal property arising from their presence on LANL, excluding those arising solely from the unintentional misconduct of LANL, LANS, DOE, NNSA, the State of New Mexico and the United States of America, its employees and agents.

My signature below is proof that I agree, accept and will abide by the above rules and conditions.

Organization/Team

Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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Paul Torres		4-27/2026
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