

641—113.6(135) Environmental health response team.**113.6(1) General requirements.**

a. An entity may make application to the department to be a sponsor agency of an EHRT pursuant to subrule 113.3(1), or the department may elect to sponsor an EHRT. An individual may make application to the department to be a member of an EHRT pursuant to subrule 113.4(1).

b. The department shall establish EHRT operational procedures. The operational procedures shall be in writing and shall be provided to each EHRT member. All EHRT members shall follow the EHRT operational procedures as established by the department. The Iowa EHRT Operational Procedures Manual is available through the Iowa Department of Public Health, Center for Disaster Operations and Response, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

c. If the department notifies an EHRT member of a violation of Iowa Code section 135.143, this chapter, or an operational procedure, the EHRT member shall correct the deficiency or violation identified by the department within a time frame determined by the department. If an EHRT member fails to correct a deficiency or violation within the time frame identified by the department, or if the deficiency or violation constitutes an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, the department may initiate action to revoke approval pursuant to subrule 113.3(2) or 113.4(2).

113.6(2) Team composition.

a. An EHRT shall be comprised of a minimum of 20 environmental health professionals and administrative personnel as identified in the Iowa EHRT Operational Procedures Manual.

b. The department shall be responsible for maintaining adequate staffing.

113.6(3) Licensure and educational requirements.

a. Each EHRT member shall complete the following courses or shall complete other substantially similar courses approved by the department:

- (1) Incident command structure;
- (2) Weapons of mass destruction awareness;
- (3) Environmental health core competencies and essential services;
- (4) Hazardous materials awareness or operations; and
- (5) Basic, intermediate and advanced epidemiology training.

b. In addition to the requirements in paragraph 113.5(3) "a," the EHRT's leadership shall complete training in risk communication.

c. The department shall provide specific position training to EHRT members as determined to be necessary by the department.

d. The department shall develop and implement training exercises to test each team's notification process, deployment readiness, and response capabilities.

e. The department shall be responsible for documenting each EHRT member's completion of required training.

113.6(4) Deployment and standdown.

a. EHRTs shall prepare to deploy within two to four hours of notification by the department. EHRTs shall not self-deploy and shall not be covered by the provisions of Iowa Code section 135.143 and this chapter if self-deployed or deployed by another agency or entity.

b. On-call team schedules shall be established and distributed by the department and shall be followed by the EHRT.

c. Deployment and standdown procedures are outlined in the Iowa EHRT Operational Procedures Manual and shall be followed by all EHRT members.