

**2021 Surveillance Impact Report Executive Overview**

# **Hazmat Cameras**

**Seattle Fire Department**

## Overview

**The Operational Policy statements in this document represent the only allowable uses of the equipment and data collected by this technology.**

This Executive Overview documents information about the collection, use, sharing, security and access controls for data that is gathered through Seattle Fire Department's Hazmat Cameras. All information provided here is contained in the body of the full Surveillance Impact Review (SIR) document but is provided in a condensed format for easier access and consideration.

### 1.0 Technology Description

The Seattle Fire Department's Hazardous Materials (HazMat) specialty team, known as Unit 77, utilizes a camera system to explore incident scenes for potentially hazardous materials, spills, or contamination. First responders use Apple's Facetime, a video conferencing application, in conjunction with Apple TV to livestream video via an iPad and MiFi connection to a television monitor located on the HazMat Unit.

### 2.0 Purpose

**Operational Policy: Hazmat cameras allow first responders to detect and identify potentially hazardous materials or contaminants, all while maintaining a safe distance from potential exposure. Additionally, it provides an incident commander ("IC") with the real-time information required to make quick decisions.**

Other incident personnel from the HAZMAT rig may also view the live video and assist with hazard and risk assessment during an emergency scenario. Once the contaminant has been properly identified, Unit 77, the team responsible for HAZMAT response, can then take the appropriate decontamination steps to mitigate the potential exposure and terminate the incident.

### 3.0 Data Collection and Use

**Operational Policy: According to [SMC 3.16.200](#) the Seattle Fire Department is designated as the Hazardous Materials Incident Command Agency for all hazardous materials incidents within the corporate limits of The City of Seattle. The Incident Commander has broad authority to use the technology during an incident response.**

The technology is used by SFD personnel on the HazMat team (Unit 77). The Unit 77 commanding officer or the IC will determine if the technology use is necessary during an incident response.

The technology's use for HazMat operations allows for quicker conveyance of information at an emergency scene and additional review by subject matter experts at the scene, thereby limiting potential exposure of first responders by allowing the information to be shared outside an exposure zone.

### 4.0 Data Minimization & Retention

**Operational Policy: Deletion of videos or pictures occurs in accordance with the Department's retention schedule occurs at a device level.**

The Department's Privacy Champion and Public Disclosure Officer is responsible for ensuring compliance with data retention requirements.

## 5.0 Access & Security

**Operational Policy: Data is collected on scene by Unit 77 personnel and accessible by that team only. In the case of disclosure to law enforcement for litigation or in accordance with UHCIA, Unit 77 personnel will securely transmit the appropriate data and information after direction by either the Department's Public Disclosure Officer or the IC.**

### Access

The following are considered acceptable reasons to access the equipment and/or the data collected.

- Hazardous Materials response, at the IC's discretion
- Public Records (some exemptions may apply)
- Discovery for litigation purposes
- Research by Unit 77 personnel
- Sharing of information with law enforcement in accordance with UHCIA

## Security

Apparatus inventories are regularly conducted by SFD personnel at Station 10.

Photos from HazMat responses are retained on a secured “O” drive, only accessible to members of Unit 77. A new policy will be developed to track and log all disclosures of Unit 77 records to law enforcement agencies.

Regarding FaceTime technology: Apple creates a unique ID for each FaceTime user, ensuring FaceTime calls are routed and connected properly. No other user information is stored for FaceTime and Apple cannot retrieve the data for any other purpose (it is stored in a hash format). No location information is ever used or stored during FaceTime registration or a FaceTime conversation. Additionally, the entire FaceTime conversation stream itself is encrypted.

Regarding use of iPad technology: iPad supports WPA2 Enterprise to provide authenticated access to your enterprise wireless network. WPA2 Enterprise uses 128-bit AES encryption, giving users the highest level of assurance that their data will remain protected when they send and receive communications over a Wi-Fi network connection. In addition to your existing infrastructure each FaceTime session is encrypted end to end with unique session keys. Apple creates a unique ID for each FaceTime user, ensuring FaceTime calls are routed and connected properly.

The two iPads and monitor are contained in a secure compartment located on the HazMat apparatus. Only Unit 77 members can access the compartment. The iPads and Mifi also require passwords known only to Unit 77 members. No check-out is required prior to use, only a login to the iPad and MiFi.

## 6.0 Data Sharing and Accuracy

**Operational Policy: In the event that an IC determines the resulting video should be shared with law enforcement for investigation and potential litigation, Unit 77 may share data with SPD’s Arson & Bomb Squad (ABS) and Narcotics Unit and the Seattle branch of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).**

SFD personnel may encounter information at incident scenes that is evidence of unlawful activity. For example, a “meth lab” response where Unit 77 would enter the incident scene first to ensure the safety of the scene. Photos and video would then be shared with law enforcement partners as evidence of potential criminal activity.

## 7.0 Equity Concerns

**Operational Policy: The Hazardous Materials camera is used sparingly, and only in specific HAZMAT responses by a specialty team of the Seattle Fire Department. It is possible that an individual could be seen by the camera during an incident response. However, since the**

**video is not retained, it cannot be used to target specific individuals or populations. As such, there is no discernable effect on racial equity with regard to the HazMat camera.**

The Community Fire Safety Advocates (CFSA Program) are a great resource for communicating with communities across the City, including those who speak languages other than English. These advocates can be used to translate fire prevention messages and educate SFD personnel on appropriate ways to interact with their communities.

<b>Type of Strategy</b> (program, policy, partnership)	<b>Description of Strategy</b>	<b>Percent complete of implementation</b>	<b>Describe successes and challenges with strategy implementation</b>
Program/Partnership	The Community Fire Safety Advocate (CFSA) program was developed to effectively meet the specific fire safety needs of Seattle’s immigrant and refugee communities. Initiated after a tragic fire in 2010, this program has expanded to provide fire prevention services to multiple language and cultural groups. SFD practices are also communicated to vulnerable populations via these advocates.	100%	Over 24,000 immigrant/refugee community members have received safety messages, including carbon monoxide poisoning, home fire evacuation planning and cooking, and heating fire safety since the program began.