

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Camera

Seattle Fire Department

What is the technology?

Seattle Fire Department's HazMat team utilizes a tablet camera to livestream video via the FaceTime application, to a monitor located on the HazMat unit. The team uses a password protected MiFi connection for secure streaming from the tablet to the monitor.

Why do we use the technology?

HazMat cameras allow first responders to detect and identify potentially hazardous materials or contaminants, while maintaining a safe distance from potential exposure. It also provides an Incident Commander with the real-time information required to make quick decisions.

Collection

In the event of a hazardous materials incident, Seattle Fire Department's HazMat team uses the HazMat tablet camera to livestream video to the HazMat unit. Still images may also be captured by screen shot on the tablet. The Incident Commander will determine if the technology use is necessary during an incident response.



The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to [Seattle.gov/Surveillance](https://seattle.gov/surveillance).

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.

Use

The video and images captured via the HazMat tablet camera are used for surveying the incident scene and identifying potentially hazardous materials. The still images may be used for post-incident review or shared with law enforcement if reasonable suspicion of criminal activity exists.

Protections

The tablets are password protected and can only be accessed by the HazMat team. Tablets use encryption to ensure data over the MiFi connection is secure. The FaceTime application also uses end-to-end encryption for the entire conversation stream. SFD stores still images on a secured drive, only accessibly to the HazMat team.