Personal Contamination Response

This information is designed to provide direction to University Police responding to hazardous material contamination to a fellow responder or member of the public, in an exposure related to a crowd control police emergency.

Please keep this guide handy to refer to in such circumstances.

Hazardous materials used in situations similar to what is expected during the G20 vary widely in their hazard level.

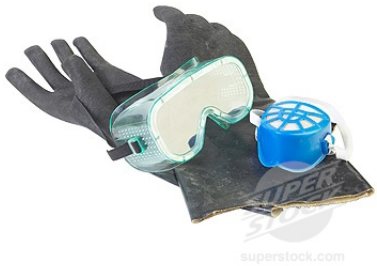
Fortunately, many of the appropriate responses for a given material are very similar to the others.

Materials used in past events include:

- Gasoline or other fuel
- Ammonia
- Bleach (i.e., Clorox)
- Urine, blood or feces
- Paint
- Acids or caustics (fairly unlikely, though)
- Tear gas (through crowd control)

STEP ONE

Typically, the first step in the response is to see whether the agent used in the exposure can be identified. Most people recognize the odor of ammonia, bleach and fuels. The appearance of others also often provides immediate clues to the identity, such as blood, urine, feces or paint. Acids or caustics burn the skin and often clothing. You will have been provided with supplementary information with regard to first responder treatment to each of these materials—please refer to them in your response.



The main response will be to try to remove the hazardous material from the victim as quickly as possible ***and without exposing yourself to the hazard!***

You should ALWAYS wear protective gloves and eyewear when responding to a person with a hazardous material contamination.

STEP TWO

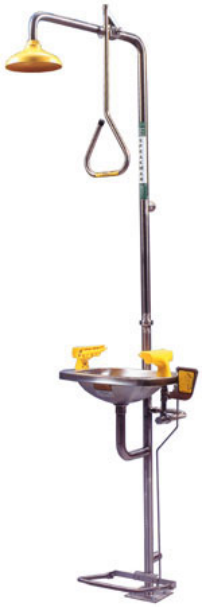
If there is an exposure to the eye, response should be IMMEDIATELY with a rinsing of the eyes with the portable eyewash bottle located in each response vehicle. Don your protective gloves and goggles, if provided. Remove the protective cap of the bottle and squirt the contents onto the affected person's eye. Continue until all of the solution is used up. The victim is often very resistant to this procedure; it is critical that you overcome this as best as possible, all the while keeping yourself safe, that is keeping the hazardous material off your skin, eyes and clothing. You may have to hold their eyelids open during this process!

It is CRITICAL that ***while this response is going on***, efforts are being made to transport the affected person to a larger scale decontamination area. The use of the eyewash bottle is only a TEMPORARY, STOPGAP effort, until better decontamination can be performed.

STEP THREE

The victim should be transported to one of the designated decontamination areas. If the contamination is limited to the eyes and face, the victim should be treated with the eyewash, and the rinsing continuing for 15 minutes. If there is contamination to the person's body and/or clothing, they should be placed in the emergency safety shower, again for 15 minutes.

Again, the victim will often resist this, but it is critical that this is overcome as best as possible. You may need to physically move the victim to the shower, getting wet yourself in the process.



Special circumstance:

If the material is **corrosive**, such as in the case of acid or caustic exposure, the victim's clothes should be removed (by someone wearing protective gloves). Clothing contaminated with corrosive materials that is NOT removed promptly will create considerably more harm than if it is removed. Also, remember to remove the victim's shoes as the material may collect there, causing additional harm. Blankets or Tyvek body suits will be available for the victim to wear after the decontamination is complete. This is NOT the time to be concerned with modesty. Every effort should be made to clear the immediate area of unneeded personnel, to provide as much privacy in this process as is possible.

Special circumstance:

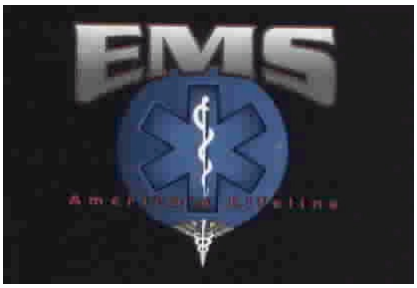
If the material in question is **blood**, it is additionally important to consider whether the victim or the responder has any open wounds into which the blood may enter. It is critical that these openings in the skin be protected from blood exposures. Responders should wear protective gloves as well as long sleeved shirts and long pants.

Special circumstance:

If the chemical appears to be **gasoline**, it if further critical to consider anything that might be a spark source that could ignite the gasoline. The response vehicles are equipped with fire extinguishers, should this occur. We would NOT expect vapor ignition with kerosene or diesel fuel—the **vapors** of these materials do not typically ignite, though the materials themselves may burn under certain circumstances.

FOLLOW-UP

Remember that the response activities outlined in this handout are merely temporary, stop-gap activities, to be taken prior to the attention of qualified medical personnel.



ALL persons who have been exposed to hazardous materials MUST receive further medical attention, either by our own Health Services, EMS group, or outside medical providers.