

HazMat and Decontamination – 60.010

OBJECTIVE:

To provide direction when responding to a HazMat incident with Patient exposure.

SCENE CONSIDERATIONS:

- A. Establish Incident Command.
- B. Approach cautiously from uphill and upwind.
- C. Position vehicle well away from the incident scene.
- D. Confirm hazmat and attempt to determine patient number and condition from a distance.
- E. Isolate scene and deny entry.

PATIENT CARE:

- A. Determine material involved.
- B. Advise OLMC of material involved and request direction for treatment.
- C. HazMat or Fire will be responsible for initial decontamination and patient packaging. See *Decontamination Zone* below.
- D. Don personal protective equipment as directed by HazMat team.
- E. Receive packaged patient at decontamination corridor from HazMat or Fire and transfer to PREPARED ambulance.
- F. Treat as directed by Fire, HazMat and OLMC.

AMBULANCE PREPARATION:

- A. Prepare ambulance as directed by HazMat or Fire.
- B. Remove all non-essential supplies/equipment.
- C. Drape interior and floor of vehicle with plastic as directed.

TRANSPORT:

- A. Notify receiving facility; provide relevant information and ask where they would like you to park.
- B. Do NOT enter the ER without specific direction from the ER staff.
- C. After transferring the patient to ER staff, return to the ambulance and remain inside. Do not move the vehicle or allow others inside.
- D. Contact the Incident Commander to determine how and where the vehicle should be decontaminated.

EMS PERSONNEL EXPOSURE:

- A. If exposed at scene, remove yourself from further contamination and report incident to Safety Officer or HazMat and wait for direction.
- B. If exposed enroute to the hospital, inform ER and await direction.
- C. After decontamination and treatment, receive clearance from HazMat Group Supervisor or ER MD AND your supervisor before returning to duty.

DOCUMENT:

- A. Patient Care
- B. Response to Treatment
- C. Hazardous Material(s) Involved

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- D. Communication with ER, OLMC, HazMat
- E. Measures taken to limit exposure
- F. Decontamination

DECONTAMINATION ZONE:

Note: All victims suspected of ingestion or significant exposure to hydrogen cyanide solution require decontamination. Others may be transferred immediately.

- A. Decontamination
 - 1. Victims who are able and cooperative may assist with their own decontamination.
 - (A) **RAPIDLY REMOVE CONTAMINATED CLOTHING** while flushing exposed skin and hair with plain water for 2 to 3 min.
 - (B) Then wash twice with mild soap
 - (C) Rinse thoroughly with water
 - (D) Double bag contaminated clothing and personal belongings
 - 2. Irrigate exposed or irritated eyes with plain water or saline for 5 min.
 - (A) Continue eye irrigation during other basic care or transport.
 - (B) Remove contact lenses if present and easily removable without additional trauma to the eye
- B. Transport when possible as soon as decontamination is complete.