

Hazardous Material Exposure

Next Review: 01/2026

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Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Refer to S-SV EMS Hazardous Material Incidents Policy (836)

Important caveats for medical responders:

- EMS personnel shall not enter or provide treatment in the Contamination Reduction Zone (Warm Zone) or Exclusion Zone (Hot Zone) unless trained, equipped and authorized to do so.
- EMS personnel shall not use Haz Mat specific personal protective equipment (PPE), including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), unless trained, fit tested and authorized to do so.
- Do not transport pts until they have been completely decontaminated. If transport personnel become contaminated, they shall immediately undergo decontamination.
- Do not delay treatment/transport of immediate pts contaminated with radioactive material.
- Early base/modified base hospital contact, and CHEMPACK activation when appropriate (S-SV EMS Nerve Agent Treatment Protocol E-8), will maximize assistance from necessary resources.
- Refer to Hazardous Materials Medical Management Reference as appropriate.

Information that must be obtained by EMS personnel on every hazardous materials incident:

- Number of pts.
- Material involved or DOT 4-digit placard #.
- Route(s) of exposure for each pt.
- Signs & symptoms for each pt.
- Decontamination procedure completed for each pt.
- Procedure utilized to determine effectiveness of decontamination procedure.
- Risk of secondary exposure to rescuers.
- PPE required to transport pt.



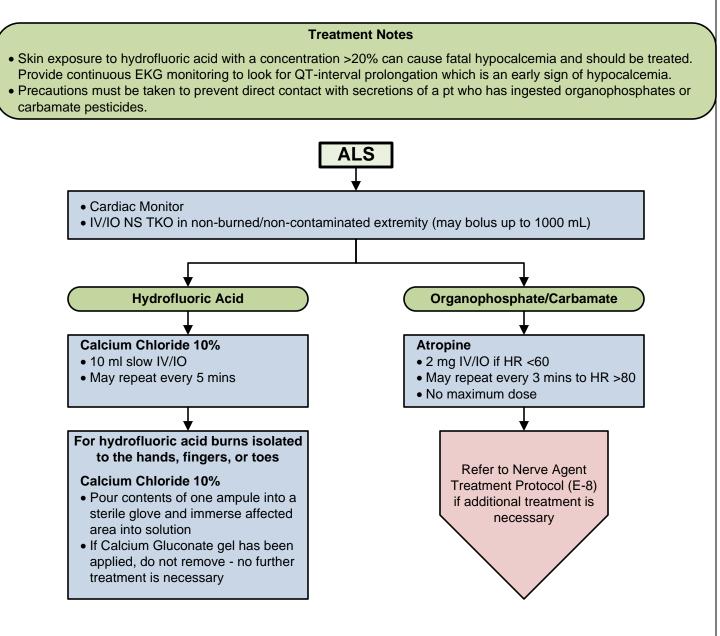
- Establish and secure airway as necessary
- O2 at appropriate rate
- Contact base/modified base hospital for assistance in determining a decontamination/treatment plan
- After pt is fully decontaminated, cover with blankets and/or sheets as appropriate
- If eye exposure occurs, irrigate each exposed eye with NS ensure contact lenses are removed

See pages 2 & 3 for additional treatment



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Radiation Emergencies

- Pt care takes priority over radiological concerns addressing contamination issues should not delay treatment of life-threatening injuries.
- Viable pts are a high priority rapidly extricate, treat and transport pts who are most critical and likely to survive.
- It is highly unlikely that the levels of radioactivity associated with a contaminated pt would pose a significant health risk to care providers.
- Body substance isolation clothing (gloves, gowns, N-95 masks, protective eyewear, shoe protectors, and head cap) are recommended, including 2-3 pair of disposable gloves.
- Due to fetal sensitivity to radiation, assign pregnant staff to other duties.

Ambulance Preparation

- Avoid using internal and external compartments work out of mobile kits as much as possible.
- Close all internal compartments prior to loading pt.
- Cover radio communication microphones with a rubber glove.
- Cover floor of ambulance with disposable papers or pads.

