

CMG 34 – CBRN / HAZMAT INCIDENT

(Revised: May 2017)



STEP 123 is a “Safety Trigger for Emergency Personnel”:

- **ONE** casualty – approach using normal procedures
- **TWO** casualties – **approach with caution**, consider all possibilities, be mindful of safety, provide a report
- **THREE** casualties – **DO NOT APPROACH**. Withdraw from the immediate area, seek help immediately, contain/isolate the casualties, isolate yourself

A CBRN / HAZMAT incident may be indicated by:

- physical indicators: e.g. unusual pools of liquid, clouds or fogs, unusual colours, strange devices or recent explosion
- medical signs and symptoms, or unusual behaviour being displayed by a number of people
- dead birds, animals, people or plants in the area

PROTECT YOURSELF – DO NOT APPROACH OR ENTER THE CONTAMINATED AREA IF THIS CAN BE DETERMINED!

NOTIFY COMMUNICATIONS OF SUSPECTED CBRN/HAZMAT INCIDENT, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (use M.E.T.H.A.N.E. sitrep if appropriate).

If a CBRN / HAZMAT incident is suspected:

- RETREAT IMMEDIATELY to a safe location (*unless you have had contact with the contaminant or affected patients*). Park uphill and upwind, close all vehicle windows and vents.
- wear all appropriate PPE
- take shallow frequent breaths (to avoid breathing the contaminant)
- cover your nose and mouth with a damp cloth (if available)
- DO NOT Taste, Eat, Smell or Touch ANYTHING in the area
- seek shielding (and distance) if radioactivity is suspected
- be aware of the possibility of secondary devices

Remain clear of the contaminated area unless specifically authorised to enter by the Incident Commander of the lead agency (e.g. ACTF&R).

You must be equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and have suitable training in its use.

Only authorised and trained personnel will operate in the HOT & WARM zones.

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CMG 34 (cont) – CBRN / HAZMAT INCIDENT



If you come into contact with the contaminant or contaminated/affected patients, consider yourself contaminated, and therefore, a patient:

- remain at the scene
- commence emergency self-decontamination as soon as possible
- isolate yourself until given further instruction by the lead agency (Fire & Rescue)

Emergency self-decontamination (while awaiting Fire & Rescue):

- remove clothing (and discard into a special HAZMAT container when available)
- skin must be cleaned by thorough washing or preferably showering (do not scrub)
- pay special attention to hair and parts of the body with opposing skin surfaces (e.g. the buttocks, axillae, etc.)
- remember to blow your nose
- carefully wash / wipe over face, eyelids, ears, etc.

TREATMENT:

ICP	Patients and personnel should be decontaminated PRIOR to treatment, by a Fire & Rescue HAZMAT team. Initial antidote can be administered prior to decontamination by suitably protected personnel.	AP
ICP	Manage symptomatically, as per appropriate CMG – (e.g. CMG 9 <i>Respiratory Distress</i> , CMG 15 <i>Decreased Level of Consciousness</i> , CMG 21 <i>Burns</i> , CMG 22 <i>Seizures</i> , CMG 35a <i>Poisoning and Overdose</i> , etc.) remembering that in the event of a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI), some patients will be triaged out, or later, for treatment	AP
ICP	Ensure hospital is notified of possible contaminated patients	AP
ICP	Specific antidotes may be issued with appropriate instructions in some situations	AP