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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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 Respiratory Distress, CMG 15 Decreased Level of Consciousness, CMG 21 Burns, CMG 22 Seizures, CMG 35a Poisoning and Overdose, 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 |