



BULLSEYE



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PROJECT ACRONYM: BULLSEYE

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WP3 - GUIDELINES FOR FIRST-LINE RESPONDERS

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this procedure is to provide the most efficient, effective and coordinated first response at the scene of any incident where chemical or biological materials may have been released, either deliberately or accidentally. The overall aim is to save life and minimise the impact of the incident on people, property, the community and the environment by enabling the first responders to work together quickly and efficiently whilst avoiding any unnecessary risks.

This procedure is intended for use by first responders from the various emergency services that have statutory responsibility for dealing with such incidents. First responders from other agencies may also be trained in this procedure to support and assist the response by the statutory emergency services (such as stewards at a public event or security guards at shopping malls).

This procedure is intended for use in the **FIRST 20 MINUTES OF AN INCIDENT** so that first responders can complete a series of tactical actions and considerations to ensure that a structured, predictable and effective initial response is delivered at the scene while the emergency services are establishing the command, control and coordination of their agencies' response.

This procedure assumes **NO OTHER CBRN TRAINING, KNOWLEDGE OR ACCESS TO CBRN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**. Where first responders have any PPE it should be used in accordance with the training provided by their own agency and the manufacturer's instructions.

The five stages of the first response procedure can be summarised as:

1. RECOGNISE THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE AND RISK OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
2. REMEMBER TO PRIORITISE YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY
3. REPORT ON THE SITUATION IMMEDIATELY
4. RESPOND USING THE 'STEPS 1 2 3 PLUS' PRINCIPLES
5. REMOVE THE PEOPLE FROM THE HAZARD AND THE HAZARD FROM THE PEOPLE



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1. RECOGNISE THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE AND RISK OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AT THE SCENE.

Consider and assess the sights, signs, symptoms, smells and sounds that may indicate the presence of hazardous materials:

SIGHT

Is there some evidence of hazardous materials at the scene or nearby?

Hazardous material containers; vehicles or warning signs; premises that may store or use hazardous materials

What can you see that may explain the situation?

The absence of a simple explanation could indicate the presence of hazardous materials as a cause

SIGNS

Are there certain signs of the possible presence of hazardous materials?

Dead or distressed animals or birds; withered plants; people showing unexplained signs of illness; unexplained vapour or mist clouds; oily droplets on surfaces or water; unusual materials or equipment at the scene

SYMPTOMS

Are there multiple casualties with unexplained symptoms or symptoms that may indicate the presence of hazardous material?

Irritation of the skin, eyes, airway; breathing difficulties; nausea, vomiting, sweating; pinpoint pupils or blurred painful vision; twitching, fitting or unconsciousness; unexplained fatalities

SMELL

Are there any unusual smells, or reports of smells, that do not fit the situation?

Smell of a swimming pool, explosives, almonds, ammonia, fuel, burning etc

SOUNDS

What can you hear and what are the reports of any unusual sounds from other people from inside any buildings, vehicles, containers or bags?

A hissing sound/escape of gas from somewhere; breaking of glass inside a rucksack; a firework, shot or explosion



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2. REMEMBER TO PRIORITISE YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY SO YOU CAN DO YOUR JOB WITHOUT BECOMING A CASUALTY.

Use caution and keep a safe distance to avoid exposure yourself and by avoiding unnecessary contact with casualties, people and surfaces that may have been contaminated.

3. REPORT ON THE SITUATION IMMEDIATELY.

The report should include any sights, signs, symptoms, smells, sounds or other information that may indicate the presence and risk of hazardous materials. Effective situation reporting from the scene is vital to enable all agencies to maintain a shared situational awareness and mobilise resources.

The report should be concise and consistent and based upon the essential facts using the METHANE system of reporting:¹

- M – Major Incident
- E – Exact location
- T – Type of incident
- H – Hazards
- A – Access and egress
- N – Number of casualties
- E – Emergency services required

¹ Source: Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP)



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4. RESPOND USING THE 'STEPS 1 2 3 PLUS' PRINCIPLES²

STEP 1:

One person incapacitated with no obvious reason:

- ✓ Approach using standard protocols

STEP 2:

Two people incapacitated with no obvious reason:

- ✓ Approach with caution using standard protocols

STEP 3:

Three or more people in close proximity, incapacitated with no obvious reason:

- ✓ Use caution and follow step 'Plus'

PLUS:

Consider what actions can be undertaken to save life using the following principles:

- ✓ Evacuate - get people away from the scene of contamination
- ✓ Communicate and advise - provide immediate medical advice and reassurance that help is on its way
- ✓ Disrobe - remove outer clothing
- ✓ Decontaminate - improvised decontamination; dry decontamination when a non-caustic agent is suspected and wet decontamination when a caustic agent is suspected

² Source: Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP)



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5. REMOVE THE PEOPLE FROM THE HAZARD AND THE HAZARD FROM THE PEOPLE.

Use caution and keep a safe distance to avoid exposure yourself and by avoiding unnecessary contact with casualties, people and surfaces that may have been contaminated.

Tell those affected to **REMOVE** themselves, **REMOVE** outer clothing, **REMOVE** the substance.³ Act quickly because these actions can save lives.

REMOVE AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS FROM THE IMMEDIATE AREA:

ADVISE

- ✓ affected individuals to REMOVE themselves from the immediate area
- ✓ fresh air is important
- ✓ if the substance is airborne, they should move uphill and into the wind if possible
- ✓ if safe to do so, bring others who may be affected
- ✓ if skin is itchy or painful, they must urgently find a water source

REASSURE

- ✓ leaving the immediate area will avoid further exposure to any material in the air
- ✓ if skin is itchy or painful, lots of water is essential for fast treatment and reducing harm

REMEMBER

- ✓ you may need to shout or direct from a safe distance to avoid exposure yourself
- ✓ you may have to improvise and quickly adapt
- ✓ remain alert - incidents involving hazardous substances can change very quickly
- ✓ continue to REPORT updates about the developing situation
- ✓ the emergency services are expecting to attend the scene if there are victims still at the scene

REMOVE OUTER CLOTHING:

ADVISE

- ✓ REMOVE outer clothing if it has been affected by the substance
- ✓ try to avoid pulling clothing over the head if possible

³ Source: UK National Counter Terrorism Security Office (2018)



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- ✓ do not attempt to remove clothing stuck to the skin
- ✓ do not smoke, eat or drink
- ✓ once this has been done, to move away from the discarded clothing

REASSURE

- ✓ removal of outer clothing reduces the risk of further exposure by up to 80%
- ✓ if clothing has stuck to the skin, trying to pull it off risks further harm
- ✓ removal will be done by a medical professional as soon as it is practical and safe to do so

REMEMBER

- ✓ you may have to improvise and quickly adapt
- ✓ remain alert – incidents involving hazardous substances can change fast

REMOVE THE SUBSTANCE FROM THE SKIN:

ADVISE

- ✓ is the skin painful or itchy?
 - **NO**: REMOVE the substance using a DRY absorbent material to soak it up or brush it off
 - **YES**: RINSE the affected area with lots of water
 - + use ANY available water source to rinse the affected part of the body
 - + apply water continuously until medical personnel advise you to stop
 - + try to avoid the water running onto unaffected parts of the body

REASSURE

- ✓ the actions taken for the symptoms give the best chance of reducing harm
- ✓ the casualty should not leave the scene as they may suffer delayed symptoms or still have a small amount of hazardous material on them which could present an on-going risk of being spread to others

REMEMBER

- ✓ remain aware of new or worsening signs and symptoms in casualties and others in the area, including responders
- ✓ stay with the casualties, in a safe place, waiting for more emergency service responders to attend
- ✓ when they arrive, inform the other emergency service responders of the actions you have taken (first aid, REMOVE procedures etc.)



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- ✓ stay in the area until released by the police, you may have important information they need, you may be asked for a statement or your personal details
- ✓ consider your own organisation's reporting requirements (incident report, injury on duty etc)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS (FROM THE EU CBRNE GLOSSARY)

CBRN - Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear

COMMAND - The exercise of authority that is associated with a role or rank within an organisation, to give direction in order to achieve defined objectives

CONTROL - The application of authority, combined with the capability to manage resources, in order to achieve defined objectives

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL – Any substance or material which could adversely affect the safety of the public, handlers or carriers or the environment.

FIRST RESPONDER - Member of an agency that may be first to arrive at the scene of an emergency and who are responsible for making the first reports to their organisations and/or taking the first actions at the scene