

Decontamination (≥ PL1)

Clinical Indications:

1. Any patient who may have been exposed to significant hazardous materials, including chemical, biological, or radiological weapons.

Contraindications:

1. None

Procedure:

1. Hazmat Command will establish hot, warm, and cold zones of operation.
2. Ensure that personnel assigned to operate within each zone have proper personal protection equipment and training.
3. In coordination with other public safety personnel, assure that each patient from hot zone undergoes appropriate initial decontamination. This is specific to each incident; such decontamination may include:
 - a. Removal of patients from hot zone
 - b. Simple removal of clothing
 - c. Irrigation of eyes
 - d. Passage through high-volume water bath (ex. Between two fire apparatus) for patients contaminated with liquid or certain solids. Patients exposed to gases, vapors, and powders often will not require this step as it may unnecessarily delay treatment and/or increase dermal absorption of the agent(s)
4. Initial triage of patients should occur after Step 3. Immediate life threats should be addressed prior to technical decontamination.
5. Assist patients with technical decontamination (unless contraindicated based on Step 3 above). This may include removal of all clothing and gentle cleansing with soap and water. All body areas should be thoroughly cleansed, although overly harsh scrubbing could break the skin should be avoided.
6. Place triage identification on each patient. Match triage information with each patient's personal belongings, which were removed during technical decontamination. Preserve these personal effects for law enforcement.
7. Monitor all patients for environmental illness.
8. Transport patients to appropriate facilities.