

**INITIAL RESPONSE:**

- Starts from the very first emergency call
- Roles of the Call Handler, Supervisor and First Responder are critical
- This response works for both CBRN and Hazardous Material incidents

**FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:**

- Saving of Life = Rapid Evacuation – Disrobe – Improvised Decontamination
- Ensuring public safety
- Emergency services intervention at the earliest opportunity
- Balancing saving the lives of casualties with managing the safety of those whose role it is to save them.
- Close and effective inter-agency working

**COMMUNICATION:**

- Continuous Communication with multi-agency colleagues at the scene and with the control rooms is essential.
- Keep communicating with the casualties
- Provide advice, reassure them help is coming, tell them what you want them to do and why
- This will help them to help themselves, promote trust and compliance with emergency interventions.



Home Office

# CBRN INITIAL OPERATIONAL RESPONSE AIDE MEMOIRE



### STEP 1 2 3 Plus

STEP 1 – One casualty: no obvious reason

Proceed normally

STEP 2 – Two casualties; no obvious reason

Approach with caution

STEP 3 – Three or more casualties in close proximity with no obvious reason

Use caution and follow Plus

Plus – Refer to First Responder flowchart overleaf

### SITUATION REPORTING:

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

### CBRN RELEASE VISUAL INDICATORS:

- Dead or distressed people, birds and animals
- Multiple individuals showing unexplained signs of skin, eye or airway irritation; nausea; vomiting; twitching; sweating; pin-point pupils; runny nose; disorientation; breathing difficulties; convulsions
- The presence of hazardous or unusual materials/equipment.
- Unexplained vapour or mist clouds
- Unexplained oily droplets or films on surfaces or water
- Withered plant life and vegetation

### RISK ASSESSMENT:

- CBRN release indicators
- Casualty numbers (walking & non walking)
- Signs and symptoms of casualties
- Weather conditions
- Hazards – present or suspected
- The location – is it likely to be a target of an attack?
- Built environment - building, open space, underground

### JOINT UNDERSTANDING OF RISK

- Share and agree risk assessment with other agencies
- Identify hazard area (potentially contaminated Zones)
- Identify safe working area (Cold Zones)
- Develop an operational plan
- RVP AND FCP (POLICE)
- Establish RVP and FCP and ensure they are staffed.

### PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON SCENE:

- Keep the public informed of what you know, what you are doing and why
- Tell them what you want them to do and why
- Reassure them that medical aid is on the way
- Advise them not to eat, drink, smoke or touch their faces

### EVACUATE TO PLACE OF RELATIVE SAFETY:

- Advise people to move away from area of gross contamination, upwind and uphill.
- If possible direct walking casualties to this area

immediately

- This will become the warm zone

### RESCUE (FRS):

- Minimum personnel wearing the most appropriate level of PPE informed by joint understanding of risk. Contact with any contaminant should be avoided
- Physical contact with casualties kept to minimum
- **Ambulance and Police should only deploy into hot zone to assist with rescues once specialist CBRN PPE is available**

### DISROBE:

- Issue disrobe packs, if available from FRS appliances and as a priority instruct to remove all clothing as per pictogram located in disrobe packs
- If not available – improvise (e.g. remove outer clothing) but consider welfare e.g. effects of hypothermia
- Avoid removing clothing overhead.
- Emergency services to facilitate from a distance

### DRY DECON:

Dry Decon is considered the best option for non-caustic substances

Exposed skin should be blotted and rubbed with any available dry, absorbent material such as paper tissue, towels, medical dressings, clean rags etc.

### WET DECON (only if applicable):

- WET DECON should be used if there are indications of caustic substances (i.e. redness, itching and burning of eyes or skin)

### IMPROVISED

- Consider all available water sources – Hose reel, buckets, taps, fixed shower etc. Use Rinse – Wipe – Rinse method
- Use diluted detergent if available
- Do not scrub skin aggressively
- Casualties may require further Decontamination

### INTERIM (FRS)

- Set up improvised showers using hose reels, fix ladders as gantries between appliances
- Casualties to wash for between 45 and 90 seconds
- Use diluted detergent if available
- Casualties may require further Decontamination; issue further disrobe pack if required
- Consider run-off

### TRIAGE (Ambulance Service):

- Establish basic triage
- Undertake clinical assessment
- Consider next steps