

## **EMS Treatment of Contaminated Patients**

### **Response Procedure**

1. Follow Responding to Hazardous Materials Policy

### **Hazardous Materials Contaminated Patients**

When coming upon a scene that may involve a spill or a container releasing a product (gas, liquid, or solid), treat the scene as a hazardous material release until you can determine that the scene is safe.

1. Establish Medical Command procedures and assign crews for triage, treatment and transport if needed while taking all necessary precautions stated in Emergency Response Guidebook.
2. Wear Tyvek suits over your clothing. Wear extra disposable gloves.
3. **Avoid** close contact with all victims until contamination has been determined. Try to isolate all victims in one area to eliminate further contamination. Gather medical information from conscious victims from a distance. Be prepared as patients may approach your crew looking for help.
4. Clear the area of all people and help to prevent others from entering the scene.
5. Contact Chemtrec for assistance and work with the local fire department.
6. Prepare to place necessary equipment and supplies in the hot zone for use on contaminated patients. Once the equipment/supplies are placed in the hot zone, they will remain there until considered decontaminated by qualified personnel.
7. Do not try to enter the scene, contain the release, or rescue victims until the scene is identified as being safe to do so. Your health and safety takes precedence over the victim's in a hazmat situation.
8. Ensure all patients being treated or transported are properly decontaminated according to proper officials (Chemtrec, Local fire dept, County Health Dept, etc) prior to patient contact. No patient that is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated should go into any ambulance before proper decontamination has occurred.
9. Follow the directions of your supervisor or the highest ranking emergency official on the scene.
10. Document entire run thoroughly on the run report and supplemental report if needed.

**Radioactively Contaminated Patients**

When coming upon a scene that may have radioactively contaminated patients or it is later deemed as a radioactive scene, treat the scene as extremely dangerous until it is determined that the scene is safe. Crew safety is number one priority.

1. Establish Medical Command procedures and assign crews for triage, treatment and transport if needed while taking all necessary precautions stated in Emergency Response Guidebook.
2. Wear *extra* protective clothing. (Gloves, booties, and disposable jumpsuits over uniform)
3. Provide emergency life saving care to victim. **Note:** Life-threatening emergencies take priority over concerns involving radioactive contamination.
4. Prepare to place necessary equipment and supplies in the hot zone for use on contaminated patients. Once the equipment/supplies are placed in the hot zone, they will remain there until considered decontaminated by qualified personnel.
5. Remove victim from immediate area of suspected contamination. Remain in the controlled zone until it is deemed safe to leave by the local fire department or qualified personnel.
6. Remove victim's clothing, if possible, and wrap victim in a clean sheet or similar covering. Change gloves after each time of taking off a clothing layer from the patient. This ensures the contamination does not spread to inner levels of clothing. All contaminated garments and equipment should remain in controlled zone.
7. Notify appropriate hospital of the current situation with patient updates as available.
8. Follow the directions of Medical Command or the highest-ranking emergency official on the scene. An officer of the ambulance service shall also be contacted.
9. Transfer victim to clean hospital gurney. Ambulance personnel, sheets and equipment should remain with the ambulance. The equipment and personnel are in a controlled area.
10. After transport of potentially contaminated patients (even after decon procedures), the transport ambulance will be considered contaminated as well as its crew, unless it is proven not to be contaminated by qualified personnel.
11. Any contaminated ambulances or crew members shall contact the local fire department/health department for decontamination procedures. The ambulance(s) and respectable crew(s) shall be considered out of service until determined to be successfully decontaminated by qualified personnel.
12. Any person that was contaminated or exposed to the radioactivity may be required to have an immediate medical examination done at the hospital.
13. Once an ambulance is considered out of service, an officer of the service should be notified immediately.
14. Document entire run thoroughly on the run report and supplemental report if needed.

