

# **SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY**

**Effective: 01/01/11**  
**Supersedes: 07/01/02**

**Protocol: P-016**

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OVERVIEW**

### **SUBJECTIVE FINDINGS**

- Identification or suspicion of hazardous materials component from signage of containers at scene, bystanders, etc.
- Contact HazMat team of SFFD and follow their direction in decontamination and scene procedures.

### **OBJECTIVE FINDINGS**

- For symptoms relating to specific hazardous materials, see POISONING AND OVERDOSE Protocol (P-020).
- For suspected Bioterrorist events, see MMRS Protocols. (P-102).

### **TREATMENT PRECAUTIONS and ACTIONS**

- **Utilize Incident Command System at scene.**
- With the identification of hazardous materials, activate additional resources, including but not limited to:
  - Fire Department;
  - Police Department (traffic and crowd control);
  - Health Department;
  - Hazardous Materials Response Team;
  - Local Industry Response Team;
  - Metropolitan Medical Strike Team.
- Establish "Exclusion Zone", but DO NOT become exposed in doing so. NO ONE should be allowed into the "Exclusion zone."
- DO NOT remove non-ambulatory patients unless properly trained personnel with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) are available and decontamination has been accomplished.
- ANY ambulatory patients leaving the "Exclusion Zone" should be assumed to be contaminated.
- Safety of responding personnel is FIRST PRIORITY.

### **LIFE THREATENING CONDITIONS**

- Prior to rendering medical care the patient should be removed to a safe environment by emergency personnel wearing appropriate PPE.
- Life saving procedures should only be rendered if they can be done safely by rescuers and do not cause contamination of additional patients or personnel.
- If lives saving procedures are performed, simultaneous gross decontamination should be performed. Cover or wrap containment areas and initiate stabilization of ABC's.
- Cover or wrap patients to prevent spread of contamination.

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## **NON-LIFE THREATENING CONDITIONS**

- Prior to rendering care, decontaminate the patient to reduce the contaminant to a level that is no longer a threat to patients or responders.

## **TRANSPORT**

- Decontaminate the patient BEFORE transport to avoid contamination of EMS personnel, ambulance and receiving facility.

## **PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS**

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- Consider the effect that receiving contaminated patients may have on a receiving facility.
- Certain hazardous materials, such as organophosphates, have easily recognized groups of symptoms, or toxidromes. See the POISONING and OVERDOSE Protocol (P-020)
- See appropriate Hazardous Materials Policy.