



Treatment Protocol 9201

Patient Decontamination

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Patient Decontamination

The decontamination process involves three stages: gross, secondary, and definitive (detailed or technical) decontamination.

Gross (Emergency) Decontamination

1. Evacuate the patient(s) from the high-risk area.
2. Remove the patient's clothing.
3. Perform a one-minute quick head-to-toe rinse with water.
4. Field emergency decontamination often involves cold water from a fire hose, no clothing removal, and is targeted to ambulatory patients.

Secondary Decontamination

1. Perform a quick full-body rinse with water.
2. Wash rapidly with cleaning solution from head to toe.
3. Rinse with water from head to toe.

Definitive (detailed or technical) Decontamination

1. Perform thorough head-to-toe wash until "clean."
2. Rinse with water thoroughly.
3. Towel off and put on clean clothes.

It should be noted that in the absence of a rapidly accessible warm water decontamination capability, a best practice would be to provide a sheltered area for patients to undress and remove potentially contaminated clothing.



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Decontamination Procedures

1. Remove gross contaminants.
2. Remove all contaminated clothing.
3. Further decontamination should be completed based upon the patient's condition, environmental conditions, and resources available.
4. Take care not to introduce contaminants into open wounds.
5. Isolate patient to prevent the spread of any remaining contaminants.
6. Transfer patient to a "protected" crew for transport, if resources are available.

Transport to Hospital

1. Recontact Medical Command.
2. Update on treatment provided.
3. Obtain specific instructions regarding entering the hospital.
4. Transport patient.
 - (a) Ground transport—protect vehicle and equipment from contaminants.
 - (b) Air transport—is inappropriate for contaminated patients.

Transferring Responsibility for Patient to Hospital Personnel

1. Await direction from hospital personnel before entering hospital.
2. Assist hospital staff with patient decontamination and treatment as requested.
3. Arrange for personal decontamination.

Medical Follow-up of Personnel

All public safety personnel who came into close contact with the hazardous material should receive an appropriate medical examination, post incident, based upon information from the designated poison control center. This should be completed within 48 hours of the incident and compared with the findings of any recent, pre-incident examination.