

BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL TERRORISM

Session 3 - Chemical Threat

A chemical attack is the deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid or solid that can poison people and the environment.

Possible Signs of Chemical Threat

- Many people suffering from watery eyes, twitching, choking, having trouble breathing or losing coordination.
- Many sick or dead birds, fish or small animals are also cause for suspicion.

If You See Signs of Chemical Attack

- Quickly try to **define the impacted area** or where the chemical is coming from, if possible.
- Take immediate action to **get away**.
- If the chemical is inside a building where you are, get out of the building without passing through the contaminated area, if possible.
- Otherwise, it may be better to move as far away from where you suspect the chemical release is and "shelter-in-place."
- If you are outside, quickly decide what is the **fastest escape** from the chemical threat. Consider if you can get out of the area, or if you should follow plans to "shelter-in-place."]
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If You Think You Have Been Exposed to a Chemical

If your eyes are watering, your skin is stinging, and you are having trouble breathing, you may have been exposed to a chemical.

- If you think you may have been **exposed to a chemical, strip immediately and wash**.
- Look for a hose, fountain, or any source of **water**, and wash with **soap** if possible, being sure not to scrub the chemical into your skin.
- Seek emergency **medical attention**.

For more information on Chemical attack check out the Homeland Security website at: <http://ready.gov/>

Next week - "Shelter in Place"