

## Appendix K - Choking Agents

### Objectives:

- Early recognition and appropriate intervention of patients poisoned with choking agents.
- Protect responders from secondary exposure to choking agents during patient care

### General Information:

#### ▪ Examples of Common Choking Agents (including Toxic Industrial Chemicals):

- a) Chlorine
- b) Ammonia
- c) Phosgene
- d) Fuming Sulfuric Acid
- e) Others - Found highlighted in 2008 Emergency Response Guide

#### ▪ Signs and Symptoms (general):

- a) Difficulty Breathing
- b) Throat "burning"
- c) Wheezing
- d) Laryngospasm
- e) Non-cardiogenic Pulmonary Edema

#### ▪ Concept of Treatment:

- a) Reduce the Dose
  - i Rescue from Environment
  - ii Decontamination (if contaminated)
- b) Airway/Ventilation
  - i Per Protocol, including CPAP
    - Atrovent and Lasix administration are inappropriate in this protocol
- c) Administer Antidote(s)
  - i Antidotes Available
  - ii Nebulized Sodium Bicarbonate (2ml of 8.4% Na HCO<sub>3</sub> and 2ml normal saline) may be ordered for confirmed chlorine exposures
- d) Support Cardiovascular System
  - i Maintain perfusion (mentation/peripheral pulses) without over hydration

#### ▪ Resource

- a) Poison Control Center - 1 (800) 222-1222



### Warnings/Alerts:

- The decision to enter a contaminated area to rescue and/or provide patient care rests with the incident commander and organizational policy
- Victims that have been decontaminated and/or confirmed "clean" are safe for treatment and transportation to a health care facility

### OMD Notes:

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### References:

- Wireless Information System For Emergency Responders (WISER), National Library of Medicine. Application version 4.3.208; Database version 4.3.7

### Performance Indicators:

Signs and Symptoms indicating exposure

Vital Signs

Treatment and Response to Treatment

## CBRNE – Choking Agents

