

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Response Date: 16 December 2019

Request:

The requestor contacted ASPR TRACIE in search of a template to create a decontamination plan for her critical access hospital.

Response:

ASPR TRACIE reviewed existing resources, including those in the [Chemical Hazards, Emergency Operations Plans/ Emergency Management Program, Hospital Patient Decontamination](#), and [Rural Disaster Health](#) Topic Collections. Previous [technical assistance requests](#) were also reviewed.

While ASPR TRACIE did not identify any “fill-in” style templates to create a plan, the following checklists, algorithms, planning guides, procedures, and other resources provide helpful guidance to inform the development of a hospital decontamination plan.

California Emergency Medical Services Authority. (2005). [Patient Decontamination Recommendations for Hospitals](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

This document provides recommendations for protecting staff and managing patients during events involving a hazardous material. The document also includes decision trees and algorithms as well as equipment recommendations for specific hazards.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2001). [Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents \(MHMIs\), Version 2001](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

This three-volume set of guidance documents and a video provide recommendations for on-scene and hospital medical management for patients exposed to hazardous materials.

Freyburg, C., Arquilla, B., Fertel, B., et al. (2008). [Disaster Preparedness : Hospital Decontamination and the Pediatric Patient](#). *Prehospital Disaster Medicine*. 23 (2)166-172.

The authors discuss the medical and psychological planning needs associated with children and chemical decontamination. They developed an algorithm that includes steps for ambulatory and non-ambulatory patients.

Georgia Hospital Decontamination Workgroup. (2014). [Georgia Hospital Decontamination Program Guidance](#). Metrolina Healthcare Preparedness Coalition.

This planning guidance was developed to assist Georgia hospital emergency departments in developing and/or maintaining a standardized hospital-wide decontamination program that is compliant with federal requirements for worker health and safety.

Harvard School of Public Health. (2014). [Hospital Decontamination Self-Assessment Tool](#). Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health - Office of Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Management.

This tool can help hospitals assess their preparedness for a decontamination event. The authors include chapters on preparedness, response, and recovery, and provide planning and team matrices in the appendices.

Hospital Incident Command System. (2006). [Chemical Attack-Nerve Agent. Incident Planning Guide](#).

This planning guide is based on a terror attack involving sarin gas. It can be used as is or tailored to specific jurisdictions.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment. (n.d.). [\(Facility Name\) Emergency Operations Plan, Annex D: Hazardous Material Incident \(Code Orange\)](#). (Accessed 12/12/2019.)

This template can be modified and used as a hazardous materials incident base plan. The purpose of this Annex is to establish emergency procedures for response to any hazardous material spill/release of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive materials.

Minnesota Department of Health. (2018). [Hazardous Materials Exposure Guide: A Step-by-Step Medical Response Guide](#).

This quick-reference cardset is intended for use by pre-hospital and hospital personnel and groups the exposure by class rather than agent (corrosives, asphyxiants, cholinergics) for easier initial assessment and treatment. It includes detailed descriptions of patient treatment steps (decontaminate and collect information; treat chemical exposure; collect blood and urine specimens) following hazardous materials exposure.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Continuum Health Partners Center for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Planning). (2006). [Hospital Decontamination of Exposed Casualties Policy and Procedure Draft](#). Domestic Preparedness.

This hospital decontamination plan template was prepared for the City of New York. It includes considerations for various hazardous materials, decision algorithms, and job action sheets.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2005). [Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Victims from Mass Casualty Incidents Involving the Release of Hazardous Substances](#). U.S. Department of Labor.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration shares best practices document for hospitals to enhance employee protection and training as part of emergency planning for mass casualty incidents involving hazardous substances.

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. (2015). [Standard Operating Procedure for Self-Presenting Patients HAZMAT/CBRN](#).

This document provides management and other staff with guidance on their responsibilities for the decontamination and treatment of persons who may self-present or attend sites within a facility following suspected or actual exposure to hazardous materials (including chemicals, biological agents, or radioactive material). It also provides guidance on how staff should protect themselves, the site and other members of staff, other patients, and the public from exposure or cross-contamination from these substances.

Stephen F. Austin State University. (n.d.). [Decontamination: Standard Operating Procedure](#). (Accessed 12/12/2019.)

These procedures were developed for Stephen F. Austin State University and should be followed in the event of an emergency in which a victim or equipment requires decontamination due to a chemical, biological, or radioactive release or spill.

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command. (2003). [Guidelines for Cold Weather Mass Decontamination During a Terrorist Chemical Agent Incident](#). U.S. Department of the Army.

Emergency medical professionals can learn about military practice for performing decontamination in cold weather situations. The document includes charts, figures, and photographs of decontamination equipment and techniques.

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command. (2003). [Guidelines for Mass Casualty Decontamination during a Terrorist Chemical Agent Incident](#). U.S. Department of the Army.

Originally written as guidance for military personnel, the decontamination guidelines in this document can be applied by medical personnel in civilian facilities. The document includes charts, figures, and photographs of decontamination equipment and techniques.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management (CHEMM). (2017). [Information for the Hospital Providers](#).

This webpage includes links to resources to assist hospital providers with receiving, triaging, assessing, and treating chemical agent casualties.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. (n.d.). [Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management \(CHEMM\)](#). (Accessed 12/12/2019.)

This website provides a wide range of information on chemical hazards for first responders, healthcare providers, and incident command staff.