

# CHLORINE EXPOSURE DISASTER RESPONSE

## Background

Chlorine is a toxic green-yellow chemical with a bitter smell similar to bleach and upon exposure can irritate the respiratory system. It is very poisonous in gas form. Under pressure or in cold temperatures, chlorine can be in the form of a liquid. Used in industry and commonly found in household products, chlorine can become explosive and flammable when mixed with other chemicals. No cure exists for the side effects of chlorine exposure. Supplemental oxygen should be given as needed, and immediate medical treatment is essential. Medical personnel will treat the symptoms to lessen the severity.

## How Chlorine is Dangerous:

- Chlorine could be released into the air as a gas and could be toxic to those who are exposed.
- In the air it could spread quickly.
- Chlorine is heavier than air and settles close to the ground.
- In liquid form, it can be released into and contaminate our water or food supply.
- Chlorine was used in World War I and II as a chemical weapon.

## Symptoms of Chlorine Exposure:

The effects of chlorine depend on the level and length of exposure. High-levels of chlorine exposure can result in severe eye and skin burns, lung collapse and death.

Side Effects of Chlorine Exposure Include:	Side Effects of High Chlorine Exposure Include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Coughing and chest tightness</li> <li>• Eye and skin irritation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burning of the eyes and skin</li> <li>• Rapid breathing and wheezing</li> <li>• Skin that turns blue</li> <li>• Accumulation of fluid and/or pain in the lungs</li> </ul>

## **If you are exposed to Chlorine:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leave the area where the chlorine was released and find fresh air.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the exposure was outdoors, go to higher ground because chlorine is heavier than air and will stay close to the ground.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the exposure was inside, immediately leave the building.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove your clothes and jewelry—they may be contaminated.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cut off any clothes that would be pulled over your head.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If you have swallowed chlorine, do not make yourself throw up or drink fluids.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Seek medical attention immediately.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wash your entire body with soap and water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leave the area where the chlorine was released and find fresh air.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the exposure was outdoors, go to higher ground because chlorine is heavier than air and will stay close to the ground.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the exposure was inside, immediately leave the building.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove your clothes and jewelry—they may be contaminated.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cut off any clothes that would be pulled over your head.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Place clothes in a bag and seal if possible.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rinse irritated eyes with plain water for 10-15 minutes.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If hearing impaired, please call [NUMBER].</li> </ul>
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