

## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

### Chemical Exposure/Decontamination Plan

**Purpose:** The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center shall have a plan to receive and treat patients who have been exposed to hazardous materials while minimizing the exposure to staff, patients and visitors.

**Policy:**

- I. Initiation of Plan
  - A. If a chemical exposure should occur with mass casualties, initiation of the emergency response will be the responsibility of the Emergency Department Physician or Emergency Commander.
  - B. The Emergency Department Nurse will notify the Hospital Administrator during normal working hours or the House Manager after hours, weekends and the Emergency Room Physician of the situation.
    1. Hospital Administrator/Administrator on Call will make the decision as to activation of the Hospital Incident Command Center.
    2. Hospital Administrator /Administrator on call will ask the Switchboard Operator to notify the following:
      - a. Hospital Administrators
      - b. Chancellor
      - c. Medical Director
      - d. Director of Safety
      - e. Information Services
      - f. Director of University Police
      - g. Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs
      - h. Director of Physical Plant
- II. Preparation for Pending Arrival of Hazardous Material Patients.
  - A. Emergency Department Nurse:

Upon notification of the pending arrival of a contaminated patient, the Emergency Department Nurse shall:

    1. Complete the Decontamination Notification Form (see attached) obtaining the following:
      - a. Type and nature of incident.
      - b. Caller's telephone number, or the number of the contact person at the location of the exposure.
      - c. Name(s) of the hazardous materials(s) involved. Ask the person that is calling to spell the name of the hazardous material(s).
      - d. Number of patients to be received.
      - e. Signs, symptoms being experienced by patient(s).
      - f. Nature of injury.
      - g. Extend of patient(s) decontamination in the field.
      - h. Estimated time of arrival.

2. Maintain contact with personnel at the location of the exposure.
3. Assign at least two RNs to oversee disrobing and decontamination area.

B. Authority to Deploy Decontamination Tent

1. The Hospital Administrator / Administrator on call or the Emergency Room physician has the authority to have the decontamination tent set up if the possibility exists we might receive contaminated patients. If patients have already been decontaminated on the scene, the ER shower in room D1-24 may be used. Whoever gives the order to set up the decontamination tent shall notify the following:
  - a. Environmental Services
  - b. University Police

C. University Police upon notification of a decontamination situation will dispatch two officers to ER drive to:

1. Unlock north door of Power Plant and then open supply room door (labeled decontamination supplies) in Power Plant.
2. Unlock south door leading into Radiology Oncology and ER drive door leading to elevator and bring elevator down to ground level and lock out.
3. Block off ER drive and allow only EMS vehicles access to ER.
4. Allow only authorized personnel (those in PPE and patient waiting to be decontaminated) into disrobing and decontamination area.
5. Assist with set-up of tent.

D. Emergency Department Physician on Duty:

1. Give order to setup decontamination tent if there is the possibility we will receive the contaminated patient. Notify Environmental Services to have staff trained in deployment of tent to report to ER drive.
2. Retrieve information on the hazardous chemical, including Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from on-line database, Poison Control Center, etc.
3. See that appropriate number of staff members are assigned to decontamination area.
  - 2 University Police Officers
  - 2 Environmental Services personnel
  - 1 Nurse to disrobe area if 5 or more patients will need to be decontaminated
  - 1 Nurse to decontamination area
4. See that all staff reporting for duty to the decontamination area have vital signs checked prior to assignment to the decontamination area.

E. Environmental Services

1. Supply trained personnel to set-up decontamination tent on the side of the ER circular driveway.

2. Tent and decon supplies are located in the Hospital Power Plant, room SG-11. Water and electrical connection are located inside Hospital Power Plant.
3. Safety will unlock side door and equipment room in Hospital Power Plant during normal hours. After hours and weekends, UPD will unlock the decon supplies and tent room.
4. Obtain decon tent and set-up between white and yellow painted stripes on driveway. Lay foundation, set tent and inflate.

### III. Personal Protective Equipment & Location

- A. Carts containing proper PPE will be brought to the ER Conference Room on the ground floor. The ER Conference Room will be used as a changing area. Barrels containing PPE will be brought to the area by the decontamination tent set up team. Staff that works in the decontamination area will not put on PPE until the first patient has arrived. All employees working the decontamination area will wear full PPE as follows:
  1. Tyvex suit
  2. Gloves
  3. Boots
  4. Full face PAPR Respirator
- B. PPE-CLAD Emergency Department Staff Decontamination Team
  1. Assess patient(s)
  2. Perform only urgently needed stabilizing procedures and treatment before decontamination. This must be done outside the Emergency Department.
  3. Disrobing of Patients (if 5 or more patients will be decontaminated)
    - a. Disrobing cubicle will be located on grassy area by ER drive.
    - b. Staff will instruct patients to fill out two cards with name, Social Security #, address and place one into bag for clothes and one into bag for valuables.
    - c. Patient will enter disrobing cubicle and remove contaminated clothes and place them into plastic bag along with card and then remove valuables and place them in smaller bag along with ID card.
    - d. Patient will put on gown and wrap sheet around self.
    - e. Upon exiting cubicle, patient will place bagged clothing in barrel labeled clothing and valuables in barrel labeled valuables.
    - f. Patient will then wait to be called to decontaminate.
  4. Management of Four or Fewer Patients
    - a. Staff will instruct patients to fill out two cards with name, social security number and address and place one into large bag for clothing and one into bags for valuables.
    - b. Have patients remove valuables and place valuables with completed card into valuables bag and seal them. Have patients place valuables in barrel labeled valuables.

- c. After removing clothing in decontamination tent, place in plastic bag along with ID card and drop bag through window into barrel.
5. Decontamination of Ambulatory Patients  
Staff will provide instruction on decontamination to patients.
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Section of Tent – remove clothing, place in plastic bag and pass through flap of tent and drop bag into barrel.
  - b. Enter 2<sup>nd</sup> section of tent and wash body and hair thoroughly – approximately 4-5 minutes.
  - c. Enter 3<sup>rd</sup> chamber of tent and rinse thoroughly.
  - d. Last Section – dry off and then drop towel through flap of tent into barrel. Put on gown and booties and leave chamber.
  - e. Patients will then be escorted to the waiting room in Radiology Oncology by a UPD Officer.
6. Decontamination of Non-ambulatory Patients
  - a. One side of the decontamination tent will be set up for non-ambulatory patients.
  - b. Special decontamination stretcher is available in the supply room.
  - c. Once patient is decontaminated, clean stretcher and use to move patient to Radiology Oncology.
7. Cleanup
  - A. The Safety Officer or designee shall supervise collection and disposal of all contaminated materials in accordance with HSC's Hazardous Material Policy.
    1. Law enforcement officials may supersede the Safety Officer in the event that the exposure to hazardous material(s) is believed to be related to a criminal act. They may remove contaminated clothing for testing.
    2. When decontamination of patients is complete the barrels containing contaminated clothing and valuables shall be placed in close proximity to the tent and remain under 24-hour guard until the tent has been cleaned and contaminated valuables and clothing have been removed. Decontaminated valuables shall be kept in the custody of UPD until claimed by the patient or patient's family, or if a crime is associated with said valuables, UPD will withhold items until they can be properly turned over to the appropriate authorities.

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**Chemical Exposure/Decontamination Notification Form**

A. Type and nature of incident:

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B. Caller's telephone number or number of contact person at location of the exposure:

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C. Name(s) of the chemical(s) involved in incident. Ask the person calling to spell name of chemical(s):

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D. Number of patients to be received:

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E. Signs and symptoms being experienced by patient(s)

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F. Nature of injury (if any):

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G. Extent of patient(s) decontamination in the field:

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H. Estimated time of arrival.

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