



## Before, During, and After a Chemical Terrorist Attack

### Before a Chemical Attack

- Be aware of your surroundings. Know what the signs of a chemical attack may be.
- Signs of a chemical attack in humans include difficulty breathing, eye irritation, loss of coordination, nausea, or a burning sensation in the throat, nose, and lungs. Other signs are the presence of many dead insects or birds in the area.
- Have your emergency supply kit stocked with duct tape, plastic sheeting, and a pair of scissors.
- Review your shelter-in-place plan and designate your sheltering location.

### During a Chemical Attack

If you are instructed to stay inside:

- Close doors and windows and turn off all ventilation source, including air conditioners, heaters, vents, and fans.
- Seek shelter in an interior room or your designated location.
- Seal the room with plastic sheeting and duct tape.
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local radio station for information and instructions.

If you are outside:

- Immediately move upwind from the source.
- Find a shelter as soon as possible.
- You may have been exposed to a chemical in three ways.
  - Breathing in the chemical
  - Swallowing food, water, or medication that was contaminated.
  - Touching the chemical, or coming into contact with people, other clothing, or things that have touched the chemical.
- You may be exposed to a chemical even if you cannot see it or smell anything unusual.

### After a Chemical Attack

- Stay indoors in the safety of the shelter until authorities say it is safe to come out.
- If you have been affected by a chemical agent, seek medical attention immediately.
- If medical help is not immediately available, follow decontamination guidelines:
  - Remove all clothing and other items in contact with the body. Cut off clothing that normally goes over the head to avoid contact with eyes, nose, and mouth. Put contaminated clothing in a sealed plastic bag. Decontaminate hands with soap and water and remove glasses or contact lenses. Put glasses in a pan of bleach to decontaminate, rinse and dry.
  - Flush eyes with water.
  - Gently wash face and hair then rinse thoroughly with water.
  - Decontaminate other body areas by blotting a cloth with soap and water and rinsing with clear water.
  - Change into clean, uncontaminated clothes.
  - Then proceed to seek medical attention.