### CHEMICAL SUICIDE GUIDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETERGENT (HYDROGEN SULFIDE)</th>
<th>HIBACHI (CARBON MONOXIDE)</th>
<th>PESTICIDE (BASED ON MALATHION)</th>
<th>CYANIDE (SODIUM &amp; POTASSIUM CYANIDE SALTS INGESTED)</th>
<th>AZIDES (SODIUM AZIDE INGESTED)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISPATCHERS</strong></td>
<td><strong>FIRST RESPONDERS</strong></td>
<td><strong>HAZ-MAT TEAMS</strong></td>
<td><strong>MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Warning signs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suicide note</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you smell rotten eggs?</td>
<td>Do you smell a small BBQ or Hotch?</td>
<td>Do you smell a pesticide odor?</td>
<td>Smell of bitter almonds/pungent</td>
<td>Smell of dead fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you see any buckets or containers in the car with yellow liquids?</td>
<td>Did you see any white powders</td>
<td>Did you see any white powders</td>
<td>Did you see any gray tablets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is this occurring? Bathrooms?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: Gas cylinders in the area?</td>
<td>Q: Victim shaking, twitching, runny nose, vomiting</td>
<td>Q: Recent trend of CN suicide in courtrooms post-guilt verdict</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you see tape over vents, windows, door cracks?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wearing goggles or gloves?</td>
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### Dispatch Triage

- **Approach from uphill/upwind**
- **Eliminate ignition sources**
- **Interview all witnesses**
- **Secure HVAC at building**
- **If H2S is suspected do not open the vehicle doors, initiate a hazmat call**
- **Use a public address system/ sirens to communicate with victim**
- **If odors are being detected down wind issue a shelter in place order**
- **Notify area hospitals of possible self transports from dorm rooms/apt./hotel**
- **Do not transport containers to ER.**

### First Responder

- **Recon in FFTO & SCBA**
- **Look for secondary devices**
- **Monitor with 4-gas/CO sensor, PID**
- **Ensure perimeter is suitable for wind conditions**
- **Ventilate vehicle for 15 min.**
- **Ensure the vented gases are not impacting other populated areas**
- **Re-monitor vehicle to ensure safe levels of H2S**
- **Wait for medical examiner to document scene if deceased**
- **Decon body at ME request only**
- **If acids present: check area for spilled acids using pH paper**
- **Neutralize with fast set concrete**
- **Decontaminate the vehicle**
- **Neutralized acids with concrete can be treated as solid waste according to study data**

### Haz-Mat Teams

- **Recon in FFTO & SCBA**
- **Look for secondary devices**
- **Monitor with 4-gas/CO sensor, PID**
- **Ensure the vented gases are not impacting other populated areas**
- **Re-monitor vehicle to ensure safe levels of H2S**
- **Wait for medical examiner to document scene if deceased**
- **Neutralize any spilled acids with soda ash**
- **Containize remaining acids for disposal**

### Resources utilized:
- NIOSH Pocket Guide, ATSDR, TOXNET, San Diego County/City Hazmat Detergent Suicide Study. IDLH = Immediately Dangerous to Life & Health, **FFTO** = Firefighter Turnouts, **OSHA C** = Ceiling, **SCBA** = Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. **SD HIR T 04/21/2014**
**Chemical Suicide Guidance**

**Detergent**
- **Hydrazoic acid**
- **Sodium azide**
- **Potassium cyanide**
- **Sodium phosphide**

**Habichi**
- **Carbon monoxide**
- **Malathion**
- **Sodium phosphide**

**Pesticide**
- **Sodium and potassium cyanide**
- **Sodium azide**
- **Sodium phosphide**

**Cyaneide**
- **Pesticide**
- **Sodium phosphide**
- **Sodium azide**

**Phosphate**
- **Aluminum**
- **Sodium**

**Azides**
- **Sodium azide**

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**Indicators/Red Flags**
- Warning signs on window: suicide note, rotten egg odor, buckets with yellow liquids, add & pesticide containers.
- Colorless toxic, flammable gas with sewer gas odor.
- Bitter almonds, fish or garlic odor.
- Pink/mauve, Blue or purple.

**Chemical Description**
- Colorless toxic flammable gas with sewer gas odor.
- Odor: Rotten egg odor.
- Odor Threshold Warning Properties: <1 ppm (Good warning properties).

**Evacuation & Isolation Distance**
- 100 Feet based on San Diego study data.
- 150 Feet.
- 150 Feet.
- 300 Feet.
- 300 Feet.
- 75 Feet.

**Flammability**
- YES - Flammable range 4 - 40%.
- YES - Flammable range 12.5 - 74%.
- NO - Combustible carrier (Xylene/Toluene).
- YES - Flammable range 5.6 - 40%.
- YES - Flammable range 1.79 - ?%.
- YES - Flammable range 1.79 - ?%.

**Warning Signs**
- Suicide victim will continually off gas phosphine until the product is fully reacted.
- Suicide victims will continually off gas hydrogen cyanide gas from the stomach at toxic but not normally flammable levels.

**Gas Density**
- Gas density 1.19 (Air = 1).
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**Toxicity**
- ODH-PPE: Lethal 12,000 ppm (1.28%) 3 min.
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- ODH-PPE: Lethal method, typically body recovery.

**Deceased Skin Color**
- Grayish to green.
- Red.

**Transport & ER Considerations**
- LOW RISK - Monitor for Hydrogen Sulfide prior to transport.
- LOW RISK - If needed monitor for Carbon Monoxide prior to transport.

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**Warning Signs, Suicide Note, Eye Irritation, Gas from Acid**

**Decontamination**
- Fresh air, gas will dissipate, remove clothes.
- Must decontaminate prior to transport, soap & water.
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**Emergency Decontamination**
- Remove clothes ER-Decom with Water & soap necessary for solids.
- Must decontaminate prior to transport, soap & water.
- Fresh air, gas will dissipate.

**Transport & ER**
- LOW RISK - Monitor for Hydrogen Sulfide prior to transport.
- LOW RISK - Monitor for Carbon Monoxide prior to transport.

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**Medical Considerations**
- Victims may vomit in route causing contamination of responders/ambulance. Off gassing from internal contamination may be an issue.
- Treat outside or in negative pressure room.
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- LOW RISK - Monitor for Hydrogen Sulfide prior to transport.
- LOW RISK - If needed monitor for Carbon Monoxide prior to transport.

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**Victim Clothing** is a source of ongoing contamination. Contaminated clothing should not be taken into the ambulance or ER. Separate clothing from valuables, bag separately and have Hazmat monitor prior to returning to victim.