

NERVE AGENT ANTI-DOTE KITS

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Purpose: *There is a concern about the use of nerve agents as weapons of mass destruction. Public Safety Agencies have been provided with a supply of Mark I Injector kits, which are to be used as treatment for persons having symptoms of nerve agent exposure.*

Procedure:

1. Nerve agents are chemically similar to pest control products. The Mark I Injector Kits are not intended to be used for treatment of persons exposed to pesticides. The Mark I Injector Kits are intended to be use for treatment of multiple persons.
2. The Mark I Injector Kits that are located in fire apparatus are intended for the treatment of only public safety personnel (Fire/Police/EMS). They shall NOT be used to treat civilians.
3. There are to be not less than twelve (12) injector kits on each of the following units: 8031, 8032, 8033 and 8051. These kits shall be stored within the cab area of each unit. This is necessary to avoid significant temperature changes that may diminish the potency of the chemicals in the kits. There are 12 kits on each unit because one (1) person may need up to three (3) kits depending upon the severity of the exposure.
4. Each kit consists of two (2) auto-injector pens. One pen contains 2 mg. Atropine and 600 mg. of 2-PAMCL (pralidoxime chloride). The second pen contains 10 mg. of Diazepam, more commonly known as Valium. The Diazepam drug is intended to counter the effects of the Atropine and 2-PAMCL.
5. The primary use of Mark I Injector Kits is self-treatment or Buddy-treatment of persons who have been exposed to nerve agents in either liquid or vapor form.
6. The following are types of nerve agents: GA (Tabun), GB (Sarin), GD (Soman), GF and VX.
7. Nerve agents can enter the body through ingestion, inhalation, skin and eye absorption.
8. The following are signs and symptoms of exposure to nerve agents: pupil constriction, rhinorrhea (severely runny nose), excessive salivation, muscle twitching or paralysis, convulsions, loss of consciousness, tightness in chest or difficulty breathing, loss of bladder and bowel control and nausea/vomiting. Depending upon the nerve agent and the degree of exposure, there may be changes in the pulse rate and/or blood pressure.
9. The onset of the above signs and symptoms can occur within seconds up to hours after exposure depending upon the agent and degree of exposure.

Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.

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10. If there is reason to believe there is a presence of nerve agents, all personnel shall immediately don self-contained breathing apparatus and latex gloves.
11. Each person experiencing signs or symptoms of a nerve agent exposure shall be administered one (1) to three (3) Mark I Injector Kits, depending upon the severity of the symptoms.
12. The following are the steps to administering the Mark I Injector Kit:
 - a. Remove the atropine injector from its plastic holder.
 - b. Place the green end against the outer thigh. *(Note: Thin persons with small thighs should receive the injections in the buttocks.)* Push until you feel the injector function.
 - c. Hold in place for ten (10) seconds.
 - d. Remove the pralidoxime chloride injector from its plastic holder.
 - e. Place the black end against the outer thigh. Push until you feel the injector function. *(Note: Thin persons with small thighs should receive the injections in the buttocks.)*
 - f. Hold in place for ten (10) seconds.
 - g. Remove the grey safety cap by pulling it out. Do Not touch the black end until you are ready to inject.
 - h. Place the black end against the outer thigh. *(Note: Thin persons with small thighs should receive the injections in the buttocks.)* Push until you feel the injector function.
 - i. Hold in place for ten (10) seconds.
13. Any person receiving the injections or doses of the above medications require prompt transport to a medical facility for treatment of nerve agent exposure and reactions to the above drugs.
14. Prior to transporting, the affected person must be removed from the area where exposure occurred and be decontaminated.
15. The presence of the Mark I Injector Kits shall checked each Sunday by the on-duty supervisor at each station.

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