

MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL CASUALTIES

TRIAGE CASE STUDIES

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL DEFENSE



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TRIAGE

- **Diagnosis** (agent and route)
- **Triage category**
- **Treatment**
- **Decontamination priority**
- **Evacuation priority**
- **Prognosis**

CASUALTY 1

An M8A1 alarm sounded about 1 hour ago. This casualty was in MOPP 4 but he removed his mask briefly 30 minutes ago. He immediately noted dim vision, a runny nose, and shortness of breath. He self-administered a MARK I and came to your aid station. He has no symptoms at present.

CASUALTY 1

- Casualty is walking and talking
- Complaints 30 minutes ago:
 - Dim vision
 - Runny nose
 - Shortness of breath

CASUALTY 2

This casualty was crawling through oily brush about 2 hours ago and tore his MOPP. He began feeling nauseated and about 20 minutes ago started to vomit and twitch. He is too weak and “twitchy” to walk.

CASUALTY 2

- Complaints:
 - Vomiting
 - Muscular twitching, weakness
 - Increased secretions

CASUALTY 3

This casualty removed his mask to adjust it right after a chemical agent attack about 3 hours ago. About 45 minutes ago, he noted burning and itching on his face and in his eyes and developed a sore throat and hacking cough. Shortness of breath began 15 to 20 minutes ago. He has slight erythema on his face and irritated-looking eyes.

CASUALTY 3

- Complaints:
 - Increasing shortness of breath
 - Cough
 - Erythema on face, redness in eyes

CASUALTY 4

This casualty was about 200 m downwind of a large ammo bunker (conventional munitions) that exploded and burned about 6 hours ago. The force of the explosion knocked him out, and he lay there for 15 to 20 minutes. When he awoke, his eyes were irritated and he was slightly short of breath, but these went away over the next 30 minutes. Over the past hour, he has become progressively short of breath. With his 40-pound pack, he walked briskly about 1 km to your aid station.

CASUALTY 4

- Complaints:
 - Progressive shortness of breath
 - Coughing

CASUALTY 5

This casualty was crawling through the brush in MOPP4 about 8 hours ago and tore the sleeve of the MOPP jacket. There was a chemical attack late yesterday, and the temperature is about 60 degrees F. About an hour ago, he noted itching and burning under the hole. He has an area of erythema about 5 by 7 cm.

CASUALTY 5

- Complaints:
 - Burning, itching forearm

CASUALTY 6

According to the medic who brought him in, this casualty was without his mask when what he thinks was a chemical shell exploded. The casualty fell over, convulsed, and the medic, who was in MOPP4, picked him up and brought him in. All this was about 7 - 8 minutes ago.

CASUALTY 6

- Signs:
 - Unconscious, gasping
 - Not cyanotic, pupils normal
 - Tongue is bleeding

CASUALTY 7

This casualty had been fussing with his mask during a chemical attack -- he said that the fit was not right. His buddy saw him fall over, convulse for a few minutes, and stop breathing. The buddy administered three MARK Is and 1 CANA autoinjector and called the medic who happened to be nearby. It has been 8 minutes since the casualty fell over. He is not breathing.

CASUALTY 7

- Signs:
 - Apnea
 - Twitching
 - Miosis

CASUALTY 8

This casualty was in MOPP2 about 6 hours ago when he tripped. He fell into a puddle and got the oily liquid on his face. He wiped it off with his MOPP sleeve and put his mask on. About 2 hours ago, he noted itching on his face and in his eyes; a little later they both started to burn. Now the pain is intense. There is obvious erythema of his face, and his eyes look very irritated.

CASUALTY 8

- Complaints:
 - Severe pain in eyes, on face

Casualty 9

- The Field Medical Card is missing from this litter casualty in MOPP 4. He can tell you his name and unit, but seems dazed and cannot recall the recent past. His speech is slurred, but you make out his complaints of dry mouth, blurred vision and weakness. He denies difficulty breathing. His pupils do not appear to be constricted.

Casualty 9

- Symptoms
 - weakness
 - blurred vision
 - slurred speech
 - dry mouth
 - altered LOC

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ANY QUESTIONS?

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