

SHOW OBJECTIVES:

A: To tell others about the dangers of chemicals commonly found at work and in homes

B: To explain what to do if exposed to household poisons or chemicals found at job sites

C: To relay the 9-1-1 number if someone is wrongfully exposed to hazardous chemicals

GUEST QUESTIONS (ANSWERS LISTED BELOW):

- 1) What are chemicals that can be harmful to our health?
- 2) Where can hazardous chemicals be found?
- 3) Who can be affected by exposure to chemicals?
- 4) Give Examples of UNHEALTHY exposures to chemicals?
- 5) What should I do if exposed (or someone I know is exposed) to a chemical and is developing problems?
- 6) What should one do to protect or prevent one from being exposed to a chemical at home?
- 7) What kind of chemicals or agents can the population be exposed to in case of a domestic or terrorist attack?
- 8) What are the different types of chemical agents that can be used?
- 9) Cultural Specific Concerns (ask questions relevant to your respective ethnic communities)

Special Note to Hosts & Guests:

Questions 7 & 8 are optional. Question 9 is intended to allow each ethnic group to address specific concerns in your respective communities. REMEMBER: Only talk about what you know and what is relevant to the subject matter. Use this and the other handouts as a guide for your discussion.

- 1) What are chemicals that can be harmful to our health?
 - Hazardous chemicals can be any product that is potentially poisonous when used in the wrong way, in the wrong amount or by the wrong person.
 - When used properly, chemicals are safe to use to clean the house etc.
- 2) Where can hazardous chemicals be found?
 - They can be found in the workplace, in the home, in stores and in the environment.
 - Hazardous chemicals or poisons, come in many forms including:
 - a) Liquids- dishwashing detergents, automobile antifreeze, windshield wash solution
 - b) Solids- ant bait blocks
 - c) Crystals- drain opener crystals, moth balls
 - d) Granules- herbicides
 - e) Sprays- spray paints, spray insecticides
 - f) Gases- carbon monoxide, sewer gas
- 3) Who can be affected by exposure to chemicals?
 - Anyone of any age or culture can be adversely affected by chemicals
 - Some people may be more adversely affected by exposure to chemicals.
 - At highest risk are:
 - a) The very young or the elderly
 - b) People who have certain pre-existing medical conditions
 - c) People who don't take the proper precautions when handling hazardous chemicals or poisons
- 4) Give Examples of UNHEALTHY exposures to chemicals?
 - AT WORK: Typically workers are trained to use chemicals safely and wear protective equipment but mixing chemicals like drain cleaner and bleach or ammonia causes dangerous gases.
 - AT HOME: The majority of mishaps occur in children less than 5 years of age because children get access to dishwashing detergents, disinfectant cleaners, glass cleaners, drain openers, gasoline, and paint thinner, etc.
- 5) What should I do if exposed (or someone I know is exposed) to a chemical and is developing problems?
 - EYE Exposure: Immediately rinse the eyes with running water for 15-20 minutes.
 - SKIN Exposure: Take off any affected clothing that the chemical has touched. Wash the affected skin with running water for 15-20 minutes. Never add another chemical to the skin to neutralize the original chemical. It may cause way more harm than good.
 - INHALATION: Remove the affected person from the area and get fresh air immediately. If a chemical gets swallowed, dilute immediately with water or milk. Never induce vomiting.
 - a) Persons exposed to chemical poisons becoming unconscious, having a seizure, trouble breathing, should call 911 immediately.

- 6) What should one do to protect or prevent one from being exposed to a chemical at home?
- Store all household chemicals where children cannot see or reach them.
 - Store all products in their original containers.
 - Use child resistant packaging whenever possible.
 - Read the label and follow the written instructions.
 - Lock up products after use
 - If possible use products made WITHOUT chemicals (for cleaning the house, etc.)
 - Avoid mixing household chemicals.
 - Never smoke while using household chemicals.
 - Never use certain flammable products near an open flame.
 - Only use as much household chemical that you need to complete the job.
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- 7) What kind of chemicals or agents can the population be exposed to in case of a domestic or terrorist attack?
- The types of chemicals that can be used in a bio-terrorism attack include biological agents, chemical agents and radiation agents.
- 8) What are the different types of chemical agents that can be used?
- Chemical agents can include:
 - a) nerve agents
 - b) chlorine gas
 - c) cyanide
 - Most of these can be readily identifiable by signs and symptoms of coughing, vomiting, burning sensation on the skin.
 - Some may cause a delayed effect and may hang around for awhile in the environment.
 - Immediate response:
 - a) Get out of the area
 - b) Wash off all contaminated areas
 - c) Seek medical attention and call 9-1-1
 - d) Minnesota Poison Control System at 1-800-222-1222. Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- 9) Cultural Specific Concerns:
- Some families have used “bleach” to bathe children thinking it would get rid of germs resulting in injuries or even death.
 - Many times people mix window cleaners with chemicals to try to get “cleaner” windows resulting in injuries.
 - PLEASE use the products on the set to draw attention to WARNING LABELS