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 then 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.

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) chorine 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