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Facts About Riot Control Agents Interim

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What riot control agents are

- Riot control agents (sometimes referred to as “tear gas”) are chemical compounds that are unable to function by causing irritation to the eyes, mouth, throat, lungs, and skin.
- Several different compounds are considered to be riot control agents. The most common are chloroacetophenone (CN) and chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile (CS). Other examples include bromobenzyl cyanide (BR) which is also used as a fumigant (that is, a substance that uses fumes to disinfect an area); dibenzoxazepine (CR); and combinations of various agents.

Where riot control agents are found and how

- Riot control agents are used by law enforcement officials for crowd control and by individuals for personal protection (for example, pepper spray).
- CS is also used in military settings to test the speed and ability of military personnel to escape.

How you could be exposed to riot control agents

- Because they are liquids or solids (for example, powder), riot control agents such as CN and CS are carried through the air as fine droplets or particles.

How riot control agents work

- The extent of poisoning caused by riot control agents depends on the amount of riot person was exposed, the location of exposure (indoors versus outdoors), how the pe length of time of the exposure.
- Riot control agents work by causing irritation to the area of contact (for example, eye exposure).
- The effects of exposure to a riot control agent are usually short-lived (15–30 minutes removed from the source and decontaminated (cleaned off)).

Immediate signs and symptoms of exposure agent

People exposed to riot control agents may experience some or all of the following symptc

- Eyes: excessive tearing, burning, blurred vision, redness
- Nose: runny nose, burning, swelling
- Mouth: burning, irritation, difficulty swallowing, drooling
- Lungs: chest tightness, coughing, choking sensation, noisy breathing (wheezing), sho
- Skin: burns, rash
- Other: nausea and vomiting

Long-lasting exposure or exposure to a large dose of riot control agent, especially in a clo: effects such as the following:

- Blindness
- Glaucoma (a serious eye condition that can lead to blindness)
- Immediate death due to severe chemical burns to the throat and lungs
- Respiratory failure possibly resulting in death

Showing these signs and symptoms does not necessarily mean that a person has been ex

Long-term health effects of exposure to riot control agents

- Prolonged exposure, especially in an enclosed area, may lead to long-term effects such as scarring, glaucoma, and cataracts, and may possibly cause breathing problems such as asthma.
- If symptoms go away soon after a person is removed from exposure to riot control agents, long-term effects are unlikely to occur.

How you can protect yourself, and what to do if you are exposed to riot control agents

- Since inhalation is likely to be the primary route of exposure, leave the area where the agent was released and get to fresh air. Quickly moving to an area where fresh air is available is the best way to avoid exposure to riot control agents.
 - If the riot control agents were released outdoors, move away from the area where the agent was released. Avoid dense, low-lying clouds of riot control agent vapor.
 - Go to the highest ground possible, because riot control agents will form a dense cloud close to the ground.
 - If the release of riot control agents was indoors, get out of the building.
- If you are near a release of riot control agent, emergency coordinators may tell you to “shelter in place” inside a building to avoid being exposed to the chemical. For more information on what to do during a chemical emergency, see [“Facts About Evacuation”](#). For more information on what to do during a chemical emergency, see [“Facts About Sheltering in Place”](#).
- If you think you may have been exposed to riot control agent, you should remove your entire body with soap and water, and get medical care as quickly as possible.
- *Removing your clothing:*
 - Quickly take off clothing that may have riot control agent on it. Any clothing that is contaminated should be cut off the body instead of pulled over the head.
 - If you are helping other people remove their clothing, try to avoid touching any clothing. Remove the clothing as quickly as possible.
- *Washing yourself:*
 - As quickly as possible, wash any riot control agent from your skin with large amounts of water. Washing with soap and water will help protect people from any chemicals on their skin.
 - If your eyes are burning or your vision is blurred, rinse your eyes with plain water. If you wear contacts, remove them and put them with the contaminated clothing. Do not

your eyes (even if they are not disposable contacts). If you wear eyeglasses, was You can put your eyeglasses back on after you wash them. If you are wearing je soap and water, you can wash it and put it back on. If it cannot be washed, it sh contaminated clothing.

- *Disposing of your clothes:*
 - After you have washed yourself, place your clothing inside a plastic bag. Avoid t the clothing. If you can't avoid touching contaminated areas, or you aren't sure ' are, wear rubber gloves, turn the bag inside out and use it to pick up the clothe: clothes when you have all the clothes picked up), or put the clothes in the bag u or similar objects. Anything that touches the contaminated clothing should also wear contacts, put them in the plastic bag, too.
 - Seal the bag, and then seal that bag inside another plastic bag. Disposing of you protect you and other people from any chemicals that might be on your clothes
 - When the local or state health department or emergency personnel arrive, tell t clothes. The health department or emergency personnel will arrange for furthe plastic bags yourself.
- For more information about cleaning your body and disposing of your clothes after a ["Chemical Agents: Facts About Personal Cleaning and Disposal of Contaminated Clot](#)
- Seek medical attention right away. Dial 911 and explain what has happened.

How exposure to riot control agents is treated

- Treatment consists of helping the affected person get more oxygen in his or her bloc chemical burns from getting worse. Medications that are used to treat asthma (such steroids) may also be used to help the person breathe.
- Eye exposures are treated by rinsing the eyes with water until there is no evidence o
- No antidote exists for poisoning from riot control agents.
- Burn injuries to the skin are treated with standard burn management techniques, in bandages.

How you can get more information about riot

You can contact one of the following:

- Regional poison control center: 1-800-222-1222
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Public Response Hotline (CDC)
 - 800-CDC-INFO
 - 888-232-6348 (TTY)
 - E-mail inquiries: cdcinfo@cdc.gov