

open dipping facilities with acids also have caused reports of whole fingers being burned. Fast-paced machines that could not be regulated by the workers has led to amputation of the palms of five workers. Therefore, the study resulted in the development of surveillance and monitoring systems that should be adopted by concerned agencies, and which also can be used by the Department of Labor and Employment. It consisted of the following procedures:

1. Identification of hazardous materials, processes, and chemicals.
2. Risk and hazard assessment through the review of the material safety data sheet, and an investigation of the risk factors such as concentration of chemicals in the workplace, contact to the human body (respiratory, absorption, or dermal), the effect of combined use of chemicals at the same time (e.g., trichloroethylene together with lead), and the impact of changes in temperature and duration of exposure.
3. Surveillance and monitoring using ambient air monitoring, biological monitoring of blood (for lead) and urine (for toluene), and medical surveillance. All illnesses and unusual medical cases were noted. Among them include anemia at 92%, abortion at 35%, respiratory problems (99%) among the 500 workers interviewed.
4. Implementation of control measures including engineering as well as the use of personal protective equipments.

Conclusion: The study is relevant to help to prevent disasters on health and safety among workers who are the foundation of the Philippine economy.

Keywords: amputations; chemicals; economy; exposure; hazards, technological; industry; lead; personal protective equipment; semiconductors; surveillance; toluene; The Philippines

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"Staffordshire" System for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Decontamination

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Objective: To discuss the use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), and how clinical care of casualties is maintained during decontamination.

Methods: An outline was provided of the roles of Police, Fire and Acute Hospitals and Public Health specialists together with the Local Authority role in protecting the public.

Discussion: Following the events of 11 September at the World Trade Center (WTC), the UK has revised its plans to deal with nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) events caused by terrorist actions. More emphasis has been placed on dealing with mass casualty situations. The presentation discussed how the UK emergency and medical services will deal with such a contaminated mass casualty situation. Also, the importance of thorough training and familiarization with protocols and equipment was stressed.

Keywords: biological; chemical; contamination; decontamination; mass casualties; nuclear; personal protective equipment (PPE); Staffordshire

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Hazardous Materials Emergencies: Decontamination

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Hazardous materials (HazMat) represent a complex and significant hazard for emergency healthcare workers. Events involving exposures to hazardous materials represent a relatively rare event, but still are one of the most common events that occur in a community setting. Unless the emergency department is prepared to deal with the complications arising from the management of the injuries related to such an event, a single patient exposed to a hazardous material may overwhelm even a modern, high volume facility. Victims of hazardous materials incidents often seek medical assessment and care in the emergency department. In order to evaluate and treat these victims safely, policies and procedures must be developed that govern patient care assessment and management. Although every emergency department has the capacity to offer medical care to these victims, the risk of personal injury due to secondary contamination mandates specific policies and personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent unprotected contact with the victim. Protecting hospital employees and staff from injury due to hazardous materials is a worker safety issue and, in the US, is covered by federal and state regulations.

It is essential that every emergency department has the capacity to safely assess, decontaminate, and treat victims exposed to hazardous materials. Health care facilities (HCFs) and their administrative staff have the responsibility to provide a safe environment in which to deliver this care. Making this capacity universal will be one of the great challenges for emergency departments in this decade.

Keywords: capacity; contamination; decontamination; emergency department; hazardous materials; hospitals; policies; preparedness; procedures; safety

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Decontamination in the Field and in Emergency Departments in Hazardous Material (CBR) Incidents

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Objectives:

1. To consider the planning required for decontamination of casualties and responders affected by a hazardous, toxic material incident, in the prehospital phase and in-hospital emergency departments.
2. To demonstrate that an all-agency response (police, fire, ambulance, rescue, and medical,) is required to contain, rescue, and treat affected persons and those who suffer minor and major traumatic injuries.
3. To show that all agencies must have training programmes to highlight the dangers that exist with unprotected