

# Chemical

## What is a Chemical Attack?

Chemical attacks are a deliberate release of toxic solids, liquids, or gases. These are very harmful not only to people, but the environment as well. If exposed to a chemical attack, contact your local emergency personnel immediately.

## Things to Know

**Chemical Weapons:** Man-made and come in a liquid or gas form. They affect a person's nervous system, blood, skin, or lungs. They cause blistering, inability to breathe, vomiting, loss of bodily control, and possibly death.

**Chemical Agents:** Can be used as a weapon-hazardous chemicals that have serious effects on people who are exposed. Examples are bombs, aerosol devices, or even crop-dusting airplanes.

## Exposure

*Common symptoms if exposed are:*

- Watery eyes
- Twitching
- Choking
- Having problems breathing
- Loss of coordination

For more information on chemical attack preparedness, visit the IDHS website at: [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs)

## What to do

- Find clean air
- Do NOT be downwind of the contamination.
- Move as far away as possible from the contamination.
- Remove clothing by cutting it off. Do NOT pull contaminated clothing over your head. Then put into a plastic bag and put it far away from the other people.
- Decontaminate by taking a shower with lots of soap and water. Be sure to NOT scrub the chemical into your skin. You want to wash it off instead.
- If you are stuck in a building and can't get out without going past the chemical agent/material, find clean air or start to barricade yourself as far away as possible. Contact authorities as soon as possible.

