



The **actions you take** immediately following a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) incident can significantly improve the outcome for all people on the site.



Recognise

the indicators of a CBRN attack



Assess

the incident to inform an appropriate response strategy



React

appropriately to reduce the harm to yourself and others

Initial Operational Response (IOR)
AIDE MEMOIRE

Recognise

the indicators of a CBRN attack

Physical symptoms



Disorientation and sweating



Eye and skin irritation



Twitching and convulsions



Nausea and vomiting



Airway irritation and breathing difficulties

Signs



Two or more people incapacitated for no explainable reason



Unexplained smells or tastes



Unexplained liquids, powders or vapours



Unusual and/or unattended materials, devices or equipment

Any one of these may be indicators of a CBRN incident.
Multiple indicators may increase the likelihood that an incident is CBRN-related.

CONSIDER SAFETY

If unprotected responders observe incapacitated casualties for no explainable reason – they MUST NOT PROCEED any closer to avoid becoming a further casualty themselves.

However, they must consider opportunities to understand what has happened or is still happening and report this back to a control room.

Unprotected responders can still assist without committing themselves into a contaminated area. Using public address systems or similar they can communicate appropriate advice and information following the REMOVE principles.

Assess

the incident to inform an appropriate response strategy

Do not put yourself or others in danger to assess the incident.



1. Where are CBRN indicators present?

To avoid moving people on the site through affected routes.



2. Where are casualties located?

To identify who is exposed and advise Emergency Services.



3. Where are other people on the site located?

To identify who isn't exposed and nearby routes for evacuation.



4. Which routes are unaffected?

To identify unaffected routes for evacuation of people on the site.



5. Are there any obvious secondary threats?

To reduce the risk of a further non-CBRN attack.

If there are significant external hazards consider moving occupants to a safe internal location.

BADCOLDS - Substance Assessment

B

BEHAVIOUR

- What did the substance behave like?
- Did it fall to the floor in a soggy lump or behave like smoke vaporising into thin air?

A

APPEARANCE

- Is it powder-like, granular or crystalline, is it a liquid, a gel or a waxy solid?
- How much is there? Golf ball, cricket ball, basketball?

D

DISSEMINATION

- How was it disseminated? Thrown, sprayed, mechanically spread or delivered?

C

COLOUR

- Is it pure white or off-white or yellow?
- Is it multi-coloured?

O

ODOUR

- Did it smell? (Washing powder or chemical pungent smell?)

L

LIKENESS

- Does it look like something you know or recognise?
(Such as talcum powder or washing powder with blue specks?)

D

DELIBERATE

- Did the spreading of the substance appear deliberate or accidental?

S

SYMPTOMS

- Is anyone exhibiting any symptoms? (Such as stinging eyes?)

CRESS - Casualty Assessment

C

CONSCIOUSNESS

Normal, altered, confused, reduced, convulsions, unconscious

R

RESPIRATION

Normal, reduced, increased, stopped

E

EYES

Normal, pinpointed or large pupils*, blurred vision

S

SECRETIONS

Normal, increased, dry mouth, thirsty, sputum

S

SKIN

Normal, dry, flushed, sweaty, pink to blue, non-balancing rash, varied

*Pinpoint pupils (and/or increased secretions) may be delayed if agent absorbed through the skin, or eye protection worn.

React

appropriately to reduce the harm to yourself and others



Do not put yourself or others in danger to assess the incident.

TELL THOSE AFFECTED TO:



REMOVE THEMSELVES...

...from the immediate area to avoid further exposure to the substance. Fresh air is important.

If the skin is itchy or painful, find a water source.

REPORT... use M/ETHANE.



REMOVE OUTER CLOTHING...

...if affected by the substance.

Try to avoid pulling clothing over the head if possible.

Do not smoke, eat or drink.

Do not pull off clothing stuck to skin.



REMOVE THE SUBSTANCE...

...from skin using a dry absorbent material to either soak it up or brush it off.

RINSE continually with water if the skin is itchy or painful.

METHANE

M

MAJOR INCIDENT

Has a major incident been declared?
(Yes/No – If 'No', then complete
ETHANE message)

E

EXACT LOCATION

What is the exact location or
geographical area of the incident?

T

TYPE OF INCIDENT

What kind of incident is it?

H

HAZARDS

What hazards or potential hazards
can be identified?

A

ACCESS

What are the best routes
for access and egress?

N

**NUMBER OF
CASUALTIES**

How many casualties are there,
and what condition are they in?

E

**EMERGENCY
SERVICES**

Which, and how many, emergency
responder assets and personnel are
required or are already on-scene?



**Designed and produced
in consultation with:**



NFCC
National
Resilience



National Protective
Security Authority

**Recognise, Assess, React (RAR)
for CBRN Incidents is an NPSA product**