

# NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2008/04



## Organophosphate poisoning

### Issue

A new procedure has been developed to deal with organophosphate poisoning, and ensure an appropriate level of response by NSWFB and Ambulance Service of NSW resources.

Organophosphate is the main component of many common insecticides and herbicides. It is one of the most common causes of poisoning worldwide, and is frequently used for suicides.

### Background

The NSWFB has responded to many of these incidents to provide decontamination and hazmat support to the Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW Health.

Recent research by NSW Health shows that medical personnel treating victims of organophosphate poisoning are not at as great a risk from off-gassing as previously thought.

A team of NSWFB, Ambulance Service of NSW, NSW Health and Poisons Information Centre personnel has developed a multi agency procedure to ensure the safe and efficient management of such incidents.

### Multi agency procedure

The *Multi agency procedure for organophosphate poisonings*, shown in the table on the following page, will be used by the Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW Health to assess the risk of the incident and determine the appropriate response.

All other NSWFB actions are to be in accordance with relevant Standard Operational Guidelines.

Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

Contact Officer	File Number	Date
Superintendent Rob McNeil, Manager Hazmat Phone (02) 9742 7322	NFB/01436	11 July 2008

**Previous Operations Bulletin: 2008/03 – Changes to Australian Dangerous Goods Code**



**MULTI AGENCY PROCEDURE FOR ORGANOPHOSPHATE (OP) POISONINGS**

This procedure is to be used to determine the level of emergency services response and actions in OP poisonings

**ASNSW PATIENT HEALTH CARE RECORD:**

RESPONSE LEVEL	TICK BOX CRITERIA	AGENCY ATTENDANCE	AGENCY ACTIONS
<b>SINGLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow this guide and tick where applicable Identified OP poisoning — <b>single</b> person (All boxes ticked) <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal or no patient contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal or no site contamination (OP or body fluids) <input type="checkbox"/> OP container size equal to or less than 1000 ml	ASNSW	Confer with Poisons Centre at 131-126 Treat patient as per protocols Take OP container in sealed bag to hospital  NSWFB presence <b>not</b> required
<b>SUPPORTED</b>	Identified OP poisoning — <b>single</b> person (Any box ticked) <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial patient contamination present <input type="checkbox"/> Site contamination present (OP or body fluids) <input type="checkbox"/> OP container size greater than 1000 ml	ASNSW  NSWFB	Confer with Poisons Centre at 131-126 Treat patient as per protocols Take OP container in sealed bag to hospital, or if >1000 ml, record details of OP container and take details to hospital  Clean site contamination Bin OP container with contaminants Consign bin to owner / occupier Note: <b>No</b> decontamination or involvement with patient
<b>JOINT</b>	Recognised HAZMAT incident (Any box ticked) <input type="checkbox"/> Unidentified poisoning substance <input type="checkbox"/> More than one person poisoned or displaying symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial patient contamination present <input type="checkbox"/> Site contamination present (OP or body fluids) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial accident <input type="checkbox"/> Strong and/or unusual odours	NSWFB  ASNSW	Decontaminate patient(s) Clean site contamination Bin poison (if applicable) with contaminants Consign bin to owner / occupier  Confer with Poisons Centre at 131-126 (using available info) Treat patient as per protocols Record details of poison and take details to hospital

Poisons Centre Advice: