

POISONS

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Types of poisons

Swallowed - through mouth, signs: nausea, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, discoloration on lips, burn in or around the mouth, bad breath

- Do not dilute a poison that has been swallowed unless told to do so by the Poison Information Centre. Try to wipe poison from face and mouth.
- Do not induce vomiting unless told so by the PIC as it can cause more damage.

Inhaled - through lungs, signs: breathing problems, coughing, chest pain, headache, dizziness (from CO carbon monoxide) even cardiac arrest.

Absorbed - through skin and mucous membranes, signs: reddening of the skin, blisters, swelling and burns (i.e. poison ivy)

First aid:

1. Begin ESM, scene survey
2. Primary survey
3. Flush affected area with a lot of water, brush off if poison is a powder
4. Remove any clothing that has been in contact, try not to touch any infected area, wear gloves.
5. Wash affected skin with soap and water
6. Give care until medical help arrives.

Injected - through needle or needle-like device (snake fangs), signs: irritate the point of entry.

First aid for poisoning

1. Begin ESM, do a scene survey, gather any information about the suspected poison, assess casualty's responsiveness.
 - If person is responsive, call the Poison Information Centre or hospital
 - If non responsive call medical help right away
2. Do a primary survey. Give AR if breathing stops, make sure there is not poison around the mouth. If there is wipe it off or use mouth to nose method or a barrier device such as a face shield
3. Place casualty into the recovery position
4. Continue to give care until help arrives.