


Section: **ALS Hazardous Materials**
Subject: **INTRODUCTION AND REFERENCE MATERIALS**
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1. **Introduction:**

- a. These protocols address the specialized treatment of patients exposed to hazardous substances.
- b. Some of the agents covered in these protocols may be used as a weapon of mass destruction in a terrorist attack.
 - i. In these instances, **scene safety and a need to stage at a safe distance should be a primary concern for members.**
- c. These protocols cover exposure to chemical, biological, and radiological agents.
 - i. A color code is assigned to each protocol in the Chemical section which coincides with the color-coded chemical treatment guide and color-coded antidote drug box.
- d. The Chemical Treatment Guidelines include information relevant to both adult and pediatric patients.
- e. The references to medical and trauma supportive care refer the practitioner to the appropriate Standing Order and/or Protocol section of the HCFR Medical Operations Manual.

2. **Reference Materials:**

- a. The treatment protocols presented in this section represent a distillation of the information derived from the following sources:
 - i. Managing Hazardous Materials (MHMI) Volume III – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) 2001: Atlanta, GA; US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service
 - ii. Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents – Course Code 0247; US Fire Administration, 16825 S. Seton Avenue, Emmetsburg, MD 21227
- b. Additionally, the protocols are, in the opinion of the Medical Director, the safest compromise between the span of control in the Department, current medical practice at the time of promulgation, and degree of training provided to members of HCFR.
- c. Given that the nature of medicine is always in flux, HCFR Paramedics are encouraged to consult with the local Poison Control Center for modifications to these protocols.