

# Remove campaign

If you think someone has been exposed to a **HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE**

Use caution and keep a safe distance to avoid exposure yourself.

**TELL THOSE AFFECTED TO:**

		
<b>REMOVE</b> THEMSELVES.	<b>REMOVE</b> OUTER CLOTHING.	<b>REMOVE</b> THE SUBSTANCE.

**ACT QUICKLY.** These actions can **SAVE LIVES.**

Alert the emergency services

# 1. REMOVE affected individuals from the immediate area

## **ADVISE**

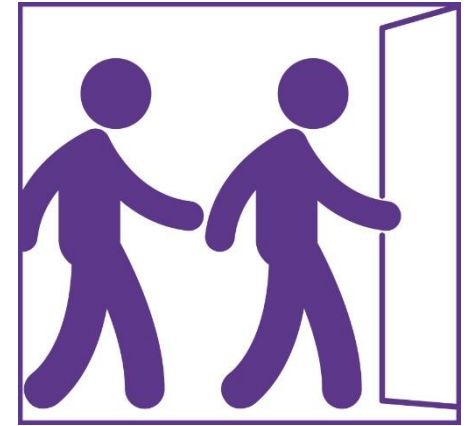
- affected individuals to **REMOVE** themselves from the immediate area
- fresh air is important
- if the substance is airborne, they should head uphill as well as into the wind if possible
- if safe to do so, bring others who may be affected
- if skin is itchy or painful, they must urgently find a water source

## **REASSURE**

- leaving the immediate area will avoid further exposure to any material in the air
- if skin is itchy or painful, lots of water is essential for fast treatment and reducing harm

## **REMEMBER**

- you may need to shout or direct from a safe distance to avoid exposure yourself
- you will likely have to improvise and think on your feet
- remain alert - incidents involving a hazardous substance can change very quickly
- continue to REPORT: 999/supervisor/control room
- all three emergency services are expected to attend the scene if the victim is still at the scene



## 2. REMOVE outer clothing

### **ADVISE**

- **REMOVE** outer clothing if it has been affected by the substance
- try to avoid pulling clothing over the head if possible
- do not attempt to remove clothing stuck to the skin
- do not smoke, eat or drink
- once this has been done, to move away from the discarded clothing

### **REASSURE**

- removal of outer clothing reduces the risk of further exposure by up to 80%
- if clothing has stuck to the skin, trying to pull it off risks further harm. Removal will be done by a medical professional as soon as it is practical and safe to do so

### **REMEMBER**

- you will likely have to improvise, and think on your feet
- stay aware to any changes in situation – incidents involving a hazardous substance can change fast



### 3. REMOVE the substance from the skin

*ADVISE: Is the skin painful or itchy?*

**NO:**

- REMOVE the substance using a DRY absorbent material to soak it up or brush it off

**YES:**

- RINSE the affected area with lots of water
- use ANY available water source to rinse the affected part of the body
- apply water continuously until medical personnel advise you to stop
- try to avoid the water running onto unaffected parts of the body



**REASSURE**

- the actions taken for the symptoms give the best chance of reducing harm
- the casualty should not leave the scene as they may suffer delayed symptoms or still have a small amount of hazardous material on them which could present an on-going risk of being spread to others

**REMEMBER**

- remain aware of new or worsening signs & symptoms in casualties and others in the vicinity, including responders

## 4. When the emergency services arrive;

- Inform emergency service personnel of the actions you have done (first aid, REMOVE protocols etc.)
- Stay with the casualties, in a safe place, until released by ambulance personnel.
- Stay in the vicinity until released by the police, you may be asked for a statement or your details.
- Consider your own organisations reporting requirements (Health & safety incident report, injury on duty, dangerous occurrence, accident book etc)

## 5. Practice makes perfect

- Practice in small groups.
- Exercise in realistic settings.
- Discuss how it might work in your setting and where you may face challenges.
- Link to the gov.uk NaCTSO website document 'how to embed in your organisation' for further ideas.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remove-guidance-on-removing-hazardous-substances>.

**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.**

 **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.**