

## WHAT PREPARATION IS IN PLACE?

In addition to Tennessee Poison Center, local, county, state, and federal agencies are prepared to respond to biological and chemical events.

- Emergency and hospital staffs have been specially trained in caring for victims of biological and chemical events.
- Agreements have been made with neighboring cities and states for extra assistance.
- National supplies of commonly used medicines and supplies are prepared.

## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY?

### PLANNING

- Each family should have a family plan for emergencies, whether terrorism or natural disasters. For a sample disaster kit, visit the **American Red Cross website:** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) under Get Help.

### EDUCATION

- Educate your family so they will know the plan. **ReadyTN** promotes preparedness and provides situational awareness in Tennessee.

### VOLUNTEER

- Volunteer your services in your community and be trained to help.



## WHAT SHOULD THE PUBLIC DO FOR A SUSPECTED BIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL POISONING?

- Monitor the situation through the internet, local radio, and television broadcasts.
- Listen and follow instructions from public health and safety agencies.
- Call the Poison Center at **1-800-222-1222** for treatment or other information.
- Call **9-1-1** if an individual is unconscious or not breathing.

## THE ACTION YOU TAKE DEPENDS ON THE FOLLOWING SCENARIOS:

### IF YOU ARE INSIDE, EVENT IS OUTSIDE:

- If indoors, stay indoors and turn off all ventilation, close windows and doors.
- Monitor the situation through news channels.

### IF YOU ARE INSIDE, EVENT IS INSIDE:

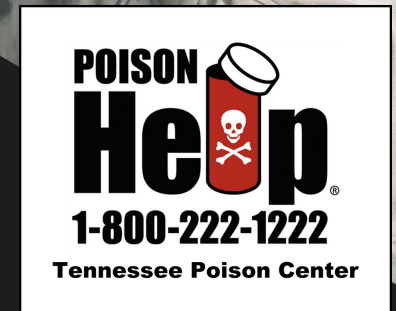
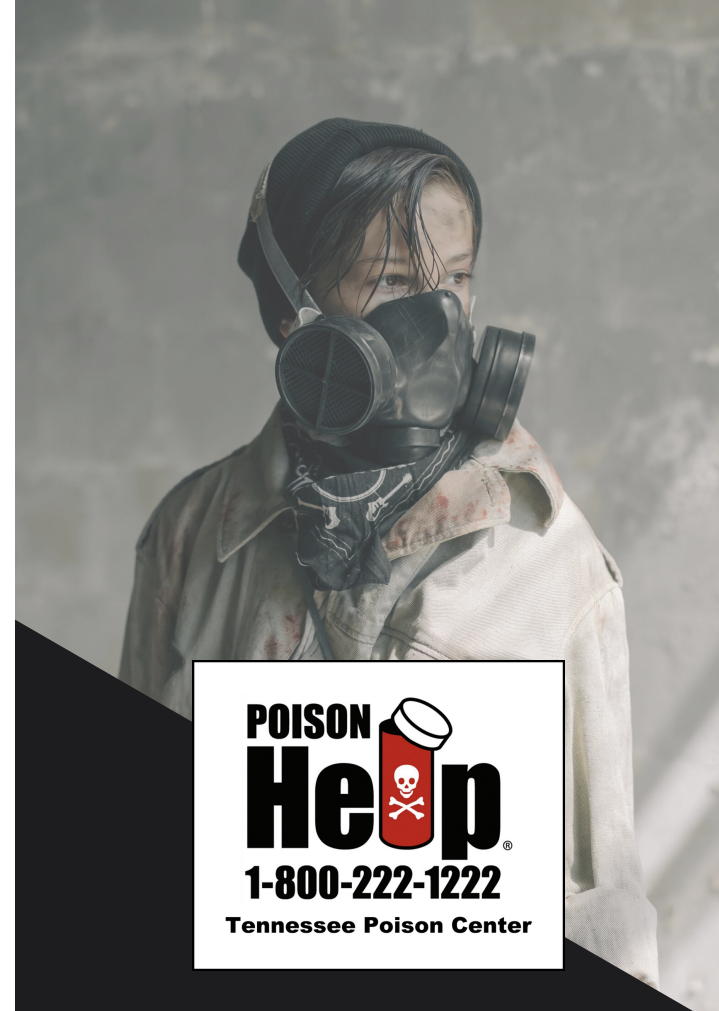
- If you hear a building or fire alarm, move quickly outside.
- Cover all exposed skin.
- Cover your mouth with a cloth.

### IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE, EVENT IS OUTSIDE:

- Cover all exposed skin.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth.
- Call 9-1-1 if an individual is unconscious or not breathing.

### TO LEARN MORE, VISIT:

- **Tennessee Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Program:** [www.tn.gov/health/cedep/cedep-emergency-preparedness.html](http://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/cedep-emergency-preparedness.html)
- **Tennessee Office of Homeland Security:** [www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security.html](http://www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security.html)
- **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency:** [www.tn.gov/tema.html](http://www.tn.gov/tema.html)



# TENNESSEE POISON CENTER & TERRORISM

[TNPOISONCENTER.ORG](http://TNPOISONCENTER.ORG)

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## TENNESSEE POISON CENTER

Following the 9/11/2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and our nation's war on terrorism, Americans began looking for information about chemical and biological agents. People want to know where to go or who to call to obtain credible information.

Tennessee Poison Center (TPC) addresses such questions—from routine calls from the public and hospitals about poisonings to chemical and biological terrorism. TPC provides poison control and surveillance to every Tennessee county.

The Center has medical professionals, registered nurses, pharmacists and physicians, who have extensive poison management experience. Medical back-up is provided by a board certified physician toxicologist. The Poison Center staff respond to calls about human exposure and inquiries about bioterrorism, chemical spills and other events involving hazardous materials.

A state-of-the-art centralized database allows all U.S. poison centers to share information.

### VARIOUS TYPES OF EXPOSURES ARE MONITORED:

- At each poison center
- At the TN Department of Health
- At the federal level



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## BIOTERRORISM

Bioterrorism, or a biological attack, is the intentional release of germs or other biological substances such as toxins and poisons that cause illness and death among people.

Biological weapons can be very harmful. Some of these agents make people sick; others can lead to death. Many agents must be breathed in, enter through a cut in the skin or be eaten to make you sick.

Some biological agents, such as anthrax, do not cause contagious diseases. Others such as the smallpox virus, can lead to diseases that can pass from person to person. In some cases, biological agents may not result in immediate symptoms or symptoms may be similar to naturally occurring illnesses such as a cold or influenza.

### BIOLOGICAL AGENTS COME IN THREE FORMS:

- Bacteria cause diseases such as Anthrax, Plague, Tularemia, and Q Fever.
- Toxins, which come from bacteria, such as Botulinum and Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B, and non-bacterial related toxin, such as Ricin.
- Viruses cause diseases such as Smallpox, Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis, and the Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers, including Ebola, Marburg, and Congo Fever.

## CHEMICAL AGENTS

Chemical agents can be inhaled, ingested, or absorbed from contaminated food, water, or air. Symptoms may be immediate and range from a mild irritant to painful skin or lung injury.

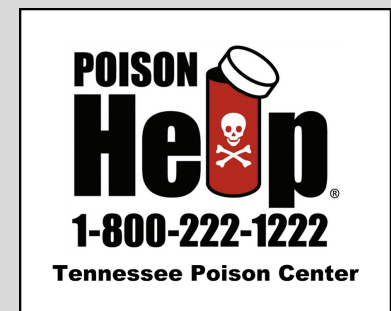
### CHEMICAL AGENTS COME IN FIVE FORMS:

- Riot Control Agents such as tear gas and pepper spray
- Blister Agents such as mustard, Lewisite, and phosgene oxime
- Pulmonary Agents such as phosgene, chlorine, and ammonia
- Blood Agents such as cyanide
- Nerve Agents such as tabun, sarin, soman, and VX.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BIOTERRORISM, GO TO:

- **Tennessee Department of Health:**  
[www.tn.gov/health/information-for-individuals/i/fact-sheets/bioterrorism.html](http://www.tn.gov/health/information-for-individuals/i/fact-sheets/bioterrorism.html)

### FOR IMMEDIATE TREATMENT ADVICE IN ANY TYPE OF POISON EMERGENCY, CALL THE TENNESSEE POISON CENTER:



TNPOISONCENTER.ORG