

Hydrocarbons & Substituted Hydrocarbons Guideline

Inclusion

Suspected hydrocarbon exposure with signs or symptoms

Exclusions

Asymptomatic patients

Pre-Decon

BLS

- Do not enter a confined space to rescue an unresponsive person without wearing an SCBA or testing to confirm SCBA is unnecessary. Remove from source, if safe to do so.
- Assist ventilation with BVM or supraglottic airway, if needed.

Decon

- Dry-Wet-Dry™ skin decon, if the patient has skin symptoms
- Eye decon, if the patient has eye symptoms
- The specific decon required should be determined by the Incident Commander (IC) or their designee.
- Medical guidance for decon is as follows:

General Decon Guideline

Eye Decon Guideline

Post-Decon

ALS

- High flow O₂ via non-rebreather reservoir mask, or BVM if indicated
- Vital signs, primary & secondary surveys, apply cardiac monitor, insert IV/IO
- Consider airway management.

Tox-Medic™

- Symptomatic PVCs in an adult: give high flow oxygen and metoprolol 5 mg IV/IO over 2 minutes.
- Other Dysrhythmias: Treat per ACLS guidelines.
- Do not give epinephrine, albuterol, or other beta agonists because they lower the threshold for ventricular fibrillation in the setting of hydrocarbon & substituted hydrocarbon exposures.
- Give ipratropium bromide without albuterol & consider magnesium sulfate IV/IO for bronchospasm.

- If needed, contact medical direction or poison control center for assistance.

Examples of Hydrocarbons:

- Aliphatic Hydrocarbons:** Methane, ethane, propane, butane, hexane, cyclohexane, etc.
 - Aliphatic hydrocarbons from pine trees include turpentine, pine oil, pine tar, etc.
- Aromatic & Substituted Aromatic Hydrocarbons:** Benzene, aniline, phenols, etc.
- Other substituted hydrocarbons** include halogenated hydrocarbons, such as freons & halons.