

PROCEDURE 9

Poisoning, chemical spill, gas leak or fumes

**Purpose:** Stop exposure, protect responders, obtain expert advice and prevent cross-contamination.



**SITE CUSTOMISATION REQUIRED.** This national baseline must be adapted through a site risk assessment, worker consultation and advice from the relevant state or territory regulator, emergency services, council, insurer and veterinarian. Human life takes priority.

Business and site details

|                     |                      |                                |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Business legal name | <input type="text"/> | Trading name                   | <input type="text"/> |
| Site / branch       | <input type="text"/> | ABN                            | <input type="text"/> |
| Physical address    | <input type="text"/> | Emergency entry / cross street | <input type="text"/> |
| Site manager        | <input type="text"/> | Incident Controller            | <input type="text"/> |
| Maximum dogs        | <input type="text"/> | Maximum people                 | <input type="text"/> |
| Operating hours     | <input type="text"/> | Main phone                     | <input type="text"/> |

Document control

|             |                      |                  |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Issue date  | <input type="text"/> | Next review date | <input type="text"/> |
| Approved by | <input type="text"/> | Position         | <input type="text"/> |

Activate this procedure when

- Ingestion, skin/eye contamination, unusual odour, gas alarm, leaking product, pesticide/bait exposure, carbon monoxide concern, vomiting after possible toxin, or sudden signs in multiple dogs/people.

|                            |                                |                                     |                                     |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>P</b><br>Protect people | <b>A</b><br>Alert and activate | <b>W</b><br>Welfare and secure dogs | <b>S</b><br>Sign off accountability |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

## Step-by-step emergency response

- 1 Isolate and ventilate only if safe.** Keep people and dogs upwind and away. For gas, fumes or an unknown atmosphere, evacuate and call 000; do not operate switches or create ignition.
- 2 Identify the substance.** Without touching it, photograph the label, secure the container/SDS, estimate time and quantity, and record affected dog/person details.
- 3 Get expert advice.** For a dog, call the vet or Animal Poisons Helpline 1300 869 738. For a person, call the Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26; call 000 for severe symptoms. [16-17]
- 4 Decontaminate only as directed.** Use PPE and follow the SDS, poison service or veterinarian. Prevent runoff entering other dog areas or drains.
- 5 Prevent spread.** Bag contaminated leads/bedding, isolate affected dogs, control footwear and stop grooming, food preparation and admissions in the area.
- 6 Transport and hand over.** Take product information, exposure details and the dog's record. Protect the vehicle and receiving clinic from contamination.

## Do not

|             |                                                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STOP</b> | Induce vomiting or give milk, salt, oils, charcoal or food without professional direction. |
| <b>STOP</b> | Enter an unknown atmosphere or clean a spill beyond training and PPE capability.           |
| <b>STOP</b> | Mix cleaning chemicals.                                                                    |

## After the immediate danger

- Arrange professional cleanup and waste disposal where required.
- Replace contaminated food, water, medicines and porous materials.
- Review chemical storage, labelling, dilution, SDS access and exclusion controls.

## Assigned emergency roles

| <b>Incident Controller</b>       | Selects the safe action, liaises with emergency services and authorises recovery. | <input type="text"/> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>People / Area Warden</b>      | Protects people, sweeps assigned areas if safe and reports status.                | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>Dog Movement / Canine FA</b>  | Secures, identifies, separates, triages and moves dogs within training.           | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>Communications / Recorder</b> | Calls services and owners, maintains the time log and preserves records.          | <input type="text"/> |

## Procedure readiness checklist

- ☐ Maintain a chemical register, current safety data sheets and secure original product labels.
- ☐ Store chemicals, fuels, baits and medicines away from dogs, food and incompatible substances.
- ☐ Provide spill equipment, ventilation controls and PPE matched to the site risk assessment.
- ☐ Display human and animal poison contact numbers beside phones and in mobile emergency kits.
- ☐ Nominate isolation and decontamination areas that prevent run-off entering other dog areas or drains.
- ☐ Train staff never to induce vomiting or mix cleaning chemicals without expert direction.

## Site-specific arrangements

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Chemical register / SDS location |  |
| Spill kit / PPE location         |  |
| Isolation / decontamination zone |  |
| Gas / ventilation shutdown       |  |

## Emergency contacts and notifications

|                                               |  |                                               |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------|--|
| Triple Zero for severe symptoms               |  | Animal Poisons Helpline / Poisons Information |  |
| Veterinarian, owner and regulator if required |  | Primary / emergency vet                       |  |

**Recommended drill:** Isolate a simulated spill, identify the substance, obtain expert advice and prevent cross-contamination.

## Drill, review and authorisation record

|                                      |  |                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Last drill date                      |  | Participants       |  |
| Corrective action owner              |  | Action due date    |  |
| Procedure authorised by              |  | Authorisation date |  |
| Gaps identified / corrective actions |  |                    |  |

## Sources and further guidance

[5] [Triple Zero - Australia's emergency call service](#)

[16] [Animal Poisons Helpline - Emergency instructions](#)

[17] [NSW Poisons Information Centre](#)

[19] [Safe Work Australia - Incident notification](#)

Review date: source links and national emergency numbers were checked for the master manual on 31 August 2026. Confirm local numbers, warnings, laws, codes, licences and veterinary arrangements before issue and at every review.