

Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) Emergency Exposure Response

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HYDROFLUORIC ACID (HF) EXPOSURE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

This is a brief summary of industry-standard HF First Aid procedures. It does not replace expert treatment or instructions.

Pain or other reactions may not be noticed for a period of time after exposure to HF, but First Aid should begin as soon as a splash or other exposure is suspected. DO NOT WAIT FOR VISIBLE BURN OR PAIN.

All HF exposure incidents should be referred to a doctor as quickly as possible

Prevent cross contamination: the victim of HF exposure should perform the following actions on him/herself whenever possible. If anyone helps, they should use HF-protective gloves (Neoprene or Nitrile, 22mil+) and other safety equipment to prevent contaminating themselves in the process. DO NOT use thin latex "exam" gloves, they do not provide an effective HF barrier.

Skin Exposure... Washing the acid from skin immediately is a priority!

1. Immediately flush affected areas with cool running water (shower if available). While flushing, remove or cut away all clothing or jewelry that could trap HF. Remove goggles last, close eyes, face water flow and pull goggles over head.
2. As soon as possible, someone call 911 (or fastest available EMT or emergency doctor) and report: (a) A person has been exposed to hydrofluoric acid; (b) The person can be found at [give location of victim]. Request assistance, but continue steps below unless/until instructed otherwise by qualified expert.
3. Rinsing may be limited to 5 minutes if Calgonate® Gel (2.5% Calcium Gluconate) is available. If 2.5% calcium gluconate gel is not available, continue flushing with water for at least 15 minutes or until medical treatment is given.
4. Apply Calgonate® Gel freely and massage it into the affected site. Apply the gel as soon as the washing is done. Affected area does not need to be dried first.
5. Re-examine the victim to ensure no exposure/burn sites have been overlooked.
6. Calgonate® 2.5% Calcium Gluconate Gel should be reapplied continually every 10-15 minutes and massaged into the skin until medical treatment or other instructions are given by a physician or EMT.
7. Provide the following information to the EMT or physician: (a) The concentration of the Hydrofluoric Acid, the SDS and any information available from the HF labeling; (b) How, when, and how long the skin was in contact with HF; (c) Location and size of body areas affected. (d) Summary of first aid measures given, including when Calgonate® Gel was first applied, where on the body, and how many times it was applied in total.

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