



RIOT CONTROL AGENTS/ TEAR GASES (CN, CNb, CNc, CS, PS, CA, CR)

I. Protocol Overview

Chloroacetophenone (CN), chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile (CS), chloropicrin (PS), bromobenzylcyanide (CA), dibenzoxazepine (CR), and combinations of these chemicals are classified as riot control agents or “tear gas.” They are irritant agents and lachrymators, producing immediate discomfort and eye closure to render the victim incapable of fighting or resisting. Most exposures are inhalational, ocular, or dermal and typically lead to complaints of eye, nose, and throat irritation; hacking cough; suffocation or choking sensation; and dyspnea. Although unlikely, high-dose exposures in an enclosed space may lead to the development of airway edema, non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema, and possibly respiratory arrest.

For all suspected chemical exposures, consult the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) located at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Information and treatment advice is available to the public and healthcare professionals at no charge.

At present, there are no known biomarkers for analysis of riot control agents in biological systems or food samples. Rapid toxicological screening can be performed on clinical samples for unknown exposures. On-scene testing for air samples is limited to presence/ absence testing. No additional testing is currently in place for environmental samples (e.g., filters, swabs, or wipes).

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory does not perform this testing. Contact the CDC or the Poison Control Center.

II. Contact Information

24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

Poison Control Center: 215-386-2100

III. CDC Website

<http://www.cdc.gov/>