

Hydrofluoric Acid – First Aid

First Aid Treatment

Skin Contact

1. Immediately proceed to a safety shower and flood the affected body area thoroughly with large amounts of water.
2. Remove all contaminated clothing, footwear and jewelry while rinsing. Calcium gluconate gel can be massaged into skin while flushing with water. PVC, nitrile or neoprene gloves must be worn while touching the victim.
3. While the victim is being rinsed with water, call 9-911 or 8-2222 (St. George campus) from a University phone. Indicate that a person was exposed to hydrofluoric acid.
4. Apply calcium gluconate gel every 15 minutes and massage continuously.
5. Continue applying calcium gluconate gel while transporting the victim to the emergency room at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Either the first aider, or a co-worker should go with the victim to ensure that the ambulance goes to Mount Sinai Hospital.
6. Inform responders and all others that the exposure involved hydrofluoric acid. Provide the medical personnel with the “HF Medical Treatment Package”.

Eye Contact

1. Immediately proceed to an eye wash station and flush eyes with water for at least 15 minutes. Hold the eyelids open and away from the eye during irrigation. If the person is wearing contact lenses, the lenses should be removed, if possible.
2. Do not apply calcium gluconate gel to eyes.
3. Take the victim to the Mount Sinai emergency room. Either the first aider, or a co-worker should go with the victim to ensure that the ambulance goes to Mount Sinai Hospital.
4. Ice water compresses may be applied to the eyes while transporting the victim to the emergency room at the Mt. Sinai Hospital.
5. Inform the medical personnel that the exposure involved hydrofluoric acid. Provide the physician with the “HF Medical Treatment Package”.

Inhalation

1. Remove victim from the exposure.
2. If the victim is not breathing, begin artificial respiration immediately. Avoid mouth to mouth contact by using mouth guards or shields.
3. Call 9-911 or 8-2222 (St. George campus) from a University phone. Indicate that a person was exposed to hydrofluoric acid.
4. Oxygen should be administered as soon as possible by a trained individual.
5. Arrange transportation of the victim to Mt. Sinai Hospital. Either the first aider, or a co-worker should go with the victim to ensure that the ambulance goes to Mount Sinai Hospital.
6. Inform the medical personnel that the exposure involved hydrofluoric acid. Provide the physician with the “HF Medical Treatment Package”.

Ingestion

1. Call 9-911 or 8-2222 from a University phone. Indicate that a person has ingested hydrofluoric acid.
2. Have the victim drink large amounts of water as quickly as possible to dilute the acid. Do not induce vomiting.
3. Give victim several glasses of milk or about 100 ml of milk of magnesia, Mylanta, Maalox, etc, or grind up and administer up to 30 Tums, Caltrate or other antacid tablets with water.
4. Arrange transportation of the victim to Mt. Sinai Hospital.
5. Inform the medical personnel that the exposure involved hydrofluoric acid. Provide the physician with the "HF Medical Treatment Package".