

POISONING

Ensure Safety
for Self and Others

Dial Triple Zero (000)
for an Ambulance

Protect yourself - wear gloves, use a face mask, wash contaminated area, do not come in contact with the poison.



If unconscious, call 000 first then place on side and maintain airway.

If unconscious and not breathing call 000 first then perform CPR.

Signs & Symptoms

In general

A poison can enter the body by ingestion, injection, absorption, or inhalation.

- Unconsciousness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Blurred vision
- Headache
- Burning pain in mouth and throat
- Seizures
- Respiratory arrest
- Cardiac arrest

Skin contact

- Remove contaminated clothing
- Avoid contact with the poison
- Flood skin with running cold water
- Wash gently with soap and water and rinse well

Enters the eye

- Flood the eye with saline or cold water from a running tap or a cup/jug
- Continue to flush for 15 minutes, holding the eyelids open

If swallowed

- Give a sip of water to wash out their mouth
- DO NOT try to make them vomit
- DO NOT use Ipecac Syrup

If inhaled

- If safe (don't go into an unsafe environment):
- Immediately get the casualty to fresh air
- Avoid breathing fumes
- Open doors and windows

If swallowed - button battery

- Determine:
- The type of battery
- The battery identification number, found on the package or from a matching battery
- The casualty's age, weight and condition
- Don't allow them to eat or drink anything
- If the battery contents touches the eyes or skin, wash with water for 15 minutes
- If in nose or ears, seek urgent medical help
- DO NOT use nose or ear drops

Signs & Symptoms

Button batteries - swallowed

- Similar to a common cold
- Fever
- Coughing/difficulty swallowing
- Drooling
- Lethargy
- Irritability
- Abdominal pain/vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Dark or bloody bowel movements

Button batteries - in ear or nose

- Pain and/or a discharge from the nose or ears