



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

Policy No. 1501
Reviewed 01/07

Emergency Medical Services Program

Approved

Medical Director

Subject: CYANIDE ANTIDOTES

This policy outlines the criteria for use of cyanide antidotes in Santa Cruz County.

I. Indications for Cyanide Antidotes

Cyanide antidotes are to be used when first responder personnel are exposed to cyanide and have signs and symptoms of cyanide exposure. These antidotes are not given prophylactically.

Indications for use of cyanide antidotes include the following signs and symptoms:

Signs:

Transient hyperpnea, followed by seizures, apnea, cardiac collapse
Tremor
Normal pupils
Diaphoresis
Cyanosis

Symptoms:

Exposure to vapor or liquid that may smell like "bitter almonds"
Upper airway and/or eye irritation
Flushing
Headache
Anxiety
Agitation
Vertigo
Weakness
Nausea
Muscle trembling

Provide high flow O₂, monitor, IV/IO NS, Amyl Nitrate inhalers (only) from cyanide kit if available or sodium thiosulfate IV (adult 12.5grams, child 0.4 mg/kg), intubate if apneic. Do not use IV nitrite from cyanide kit.

II. Policy

All fire service first responders and emergency ambulance personnel will receive training in the signs and symptoms of cyanide exposure and use of cyanide antidotes to include a review of the signs and symptoms of cyanide exposure. The EMS Medical Director will approve a fire service agency or emergency ambulance provider to receive cyanide antidotes upon documentation of the required training and successful completion of a post test. The EMS medical director may require refresher training.