

Tabletop Exercise Instructions

1. Break up into your assigned groups.
2. Read and discuss the tabletop exercise narrative.
3. Discuss applicable issues *using only the information presented*. (*In other words, don't read too much into the scenario.*) Record your group's findings using the questions on the worksheet.
4. There is no “school solution” and there are no right answers (but there may be a few wrong ones).
5. If you want more information, ask for it (you may not get it but you can still ask!).

Exercise Scenario

Narrative Information:

On 20 August 2010 a hotel guest at a local upscale hotel found another guest in distress in a public hallway. She notified hotel employees who called 911.

EMS personnel transported the patient to the local hospital emergency room. A doctor in the emergency department (ED), familiar with suicide techniques using poisonous chemicals in his native country of India, suspected this may be a similar type of case. The emergency room called 911 and asked that the hazardous materials team be sent to the hospital because they had a patient who has ingested a poison the doctor said was commonly used for suicide in India and was very lethal. The hospital caller also stated that the “patient is giving off gas” and that they “also have a container in the room that is giving off gas.”

Shortly after the hazmat team arrived they analyzed a sample of the substance involved and identified it as aluminum phosphide. Shortly after this the patient went into cardiac arrest, and despite resuscitation efforts by ED staff, was pronounced dead. During resuscitation efforts, the patient vomited a charcoal solution which was accompanied by a fishy odor. One hospital staff member complained of dizziness.

An entry team entered the ED to perform air monitoring using a four-gas meter, photo ionization detector (PID), and explosive meters. Their instruments gave no indication of any hazardous conditions.

Hospital management asks you if the “deceased is safe to move.” The victim’s remains are in the hospital morgue. The hospital wants to return to normal operations. The coroner’s assistant who was picking up the body would not accept the body without proof that it was safe to do so. The hazmat team proposes to enter the ED and the hospital morgue to perform air monitoring using a four-gas PID, gamma radiation monitor and a Draeger CMS™ with a phosphine chip.

Questions:

Based on the above narrative, break into your Groups and discuss the following issues/questions. Record your Group’s findings on each question..

Questions to Answer

1. The initial entry team had the following results from their air monitoring:
 - Oxygen (O₂) concentration of 21.3 percent.
 - PID reading of 0.2 parts per million (ppm).
 - Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) meter reading of zero ppm.
 - Carbon Monoxide (CO) meter reading of zero ppm.
 - Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) reading of zero percent.
2. What may explain the high level of oxygen found? Will the PID detect aluminum phosphide? If not then why use it?
3. The hazmat team proposes to enter the ED and the hospital morgue to perform air monitoring using a four-gas PID, gamma radiation monitor and a Draeger CMS™ with a phosphine chip. Why is the hazmat team going to use a phosphine detector? Will these instruments give you an accurate picture of the atmospheric hazards in the ED?