



Southern Regional Disaster
Response System

HHS Region 4



BIOLABS Chemical Fire Just-In-Time Clinical Rounds 29 SEPT 2024

Monday September 30, 13:30 ET



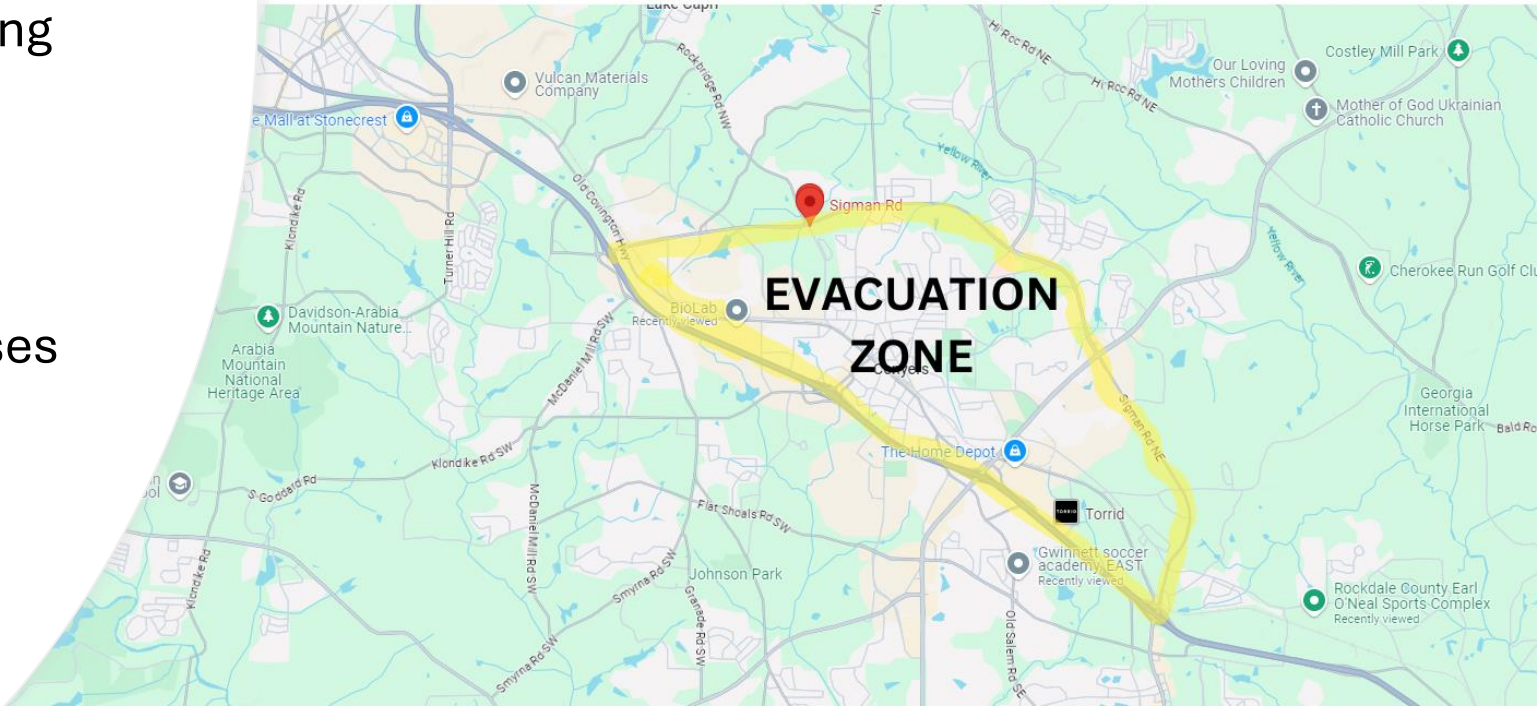
Presenters

- Moderator: Alex Isakov, MD, MPH, Professor of Emergency Medicine, Principal Investigator, SRDRS
- Stephanie Hon, Pharm D, DBAT, Director, Georgia Poison Center
- Robert Geller, MD, FAACT, Medical Director, Georgia Poison Center
- Emily Kiernan, DO, FAACT, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Emory University and Georgia Poison Center
- Ziad Kazzi, MD, FACMT, FAACT, Professor of Emergency Medicine, Emory University, Georgia Poison Center and Associate Medical Director, SRDRS
- Acknowledgement: Tyler Lopachin, MD, Medical Toxicology Fellow, Emory University, Georgia Poison Center



Overview of event

- Around 0500 on Sunday 29 SEPT, water mixed with a water reactive chemical in the Biolab plant in Conyers, Georgia .
- This started a chemical reaction leading to a fire within the plant that released chemicals into the air and prompted evacuations
- At this time the most likely chemicals released are water-soluble irritant gases





Water soluble irritant gases: Clinical manifestations

- Local corrosive effects in upper airway and eyes. Some people may complain of burning of their skin.
- Ocular manifestations: Itchiness, redness, irritation
 - TX: Significant symptoms may require irrigation with water or saline, followed by fluorescein staining to look for conjunctival or corneal abrasions
- Respiratory manifestations
 - Upper airway manifestations predominate, with nasal and throat irritation
 - Worse in individuals with pre-existing diseases such as asthma or COPD
 - TX: Supportive care and bronchodilators for wheezing. Limited evidence for corticosteroids or sodium bicarbonate. No role for antibiotics.
 - Observation time: 6-8 hours if the patient remains asymptomatic with a normal exam. This observation period can be shorter in mild cases or those reliable to return if symptoms worsen.



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- For patients who may require a longer observation period, you could consult the Irritant Exposure Observation Medicine Protocol developed by SRDRS and available here:

CDU observation protocol

<https://srdrs4.org/resources/clinical.html>



Georgia Poison Center data- As of 1203 30 SEPT

- **31 Total Exposures**
 - 10 patients from Healthcare Facilities
 - TXs – 1 bronchodilators, 2 antiemetics, 1 oxygen, 1 antihistamines
 - Effects:
 - - 6 dizziness/vertigo
 - - 4 HA
 - - 2 Chest pain
 - - 3 Dyspnea
 - - 1 Nausea
 - - 2 Throat Irritation
 - - 1 Mild CNS Depression
 - - 2 Cough/choke
 - - 1 HTN
 - - 1 Tachycardia
 - - 1 Pruritis



For a more detailed information on irritant gases in general:

- For specific assistance with this incident, contact the Georgia Poison Center at (404) 856 6252
- Watch our past webinar on Irritant Gases [here](#)
- Useful information albeit about [Chlorine Exposures from the CDC](#)
- For questions or comments, email srdrs@emory.edu
- Follow us on X @SRDRSRegion4 and @PoisonCenterGA