



**Toxins & Environmental
CROWD CONTROL AGENTS
Practice Guideline**

Patient Care Goals
 1. Identify exposure to crowd control agents: tear gas, pepper spray, mace
 2. Focus on supportive care measures
 3. Perform appropriate triage

Patient Presentation
Inclusion Criteria
 Presumed exposure to crowd control agents
Exclusion Criteria
 Presumed exposure to potentially lethal or harmful agents, i.e. chlorine, phosgene, ammonia

Patient Management
 Management of basics: airway, breathing, circulation
 Removal from the environment

Crowd control agents are chemical compounds that temporarily make people unable to function by causing irritation to the eyes, mouth, throat, lungs, and skin.

Crowd control agents are used by law enforcement officials for crowd control and by individuals and the general public for personal protection

Symptoms of exposure:
 Eyes: excessive tearing, burning, blurred vision, redness
 Nose: runny nose, burning, swelling
 Mouth: burning, irritation, dyspnea, drooling
 Lungs: chest tightness, coughing, choking sensation, wheezing, shortness of breath
 Other: nausea and vomiting

Medications:
 Saline – liberal flushing of eyes and skin
 Bronchodilators for bronchospasm symptoms

Patient Safety Considerations
 Assure airway is patent
 Continuous monitoring of ABCs

Quality Improvement
 Details of exposure

