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Fact Sheet on Riot Agents



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Riot Agents...Are chemical compounds that temporarily render people less able to engage in undesirable activity. Also known as tear gas, pepper spray, and lacrimators. Symptoms occur within 20 minutes of exposure to these agents and will generally resolve 10 to 30 minutes after the exposure.

Symptoms from an exposure to riot agents can cause the following symptoms:

Respiratory: Runny nose, chest tightness, cough, choking or burning sensation, wheezing, shortness of breath

Eyes: Excessive tearing, burning, blurred vision, redness, inability to open eyes

Skin: Blistering, rash, tingling, irritation, swelling

Other: Trembling, agitation, anxiety

Treatment:

1. If the person is having difficulty breathing...**call 911 immediately**
2. For minor respiratory symptoms, move the person outside into fresh air; tear gas will dissipate in the air
3. For exposed eyes, remove contact lenses immediately and flush eyes with lukewarm water for 15 minutes
4. For skin exposures, wash skin with soap and water (wear gloves if possible)
5. If symptoms are severe or persist for more than 30 minutes...go to your local emergency department

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