



London Ambulance Service **NHS**  
NHS Trust

## Procedure for the use of the EH20 Escape Hood

## DOCUMENT PROFILE and CONTROL.

**Purpose of the document:** To provide a standard approach for the use of the Escape Hood; to ensure all staff issued with the EH20 Escape Hood understand its purpose; and ensure that operational procedures and guidance are implemented to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of LAS staff.

**Sponsor Department:** Emergency Planning Unit

**Author/Reviewer:** Head of Emergency Preparedness. To be reviewed by May 2011.

**Document Status:** Final

<b>Amendment History</b>			
Date	*Version	Author/Contributor	Amendment Details
19/03/09	1.1	Records Manager	Minor – amended ratification date
11/08/08	0.4	Records Manager	Minor - Accepted all formatting-changes
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03/06/08	0.2	Records Manager	Minor - change to formatting
03/06/08	0.1	CBRN/HART Coordinator	New Procedure

**\*Version Control Note:** All documents in development are indicated by minor versions i.e. 0.1; 0.2 etc. The first version of a document to be approved for release is given major version 1.0. Upon review the first version of a revised document is given the designation 1.1, the second 1.2 etc. until the revised version is approved, whereupon it becomes version 2.0. The system continues in numerical order each time a document is reviewed and approved.

<b>For Approval By:</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Version</b>
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<b>Links to Related documents or references providing additional information</b>		
<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Version</b>
<a href="#">LA52</a>	LAS Incident Reporting Procedure	

Document Status: This is a controlled record as are the document(s) to which it relates. Whilst all or any part of it may be printed, the electronic version maintained in P&P-File remains the controlled master copy. Any printed copies are not controlled nor substantive.

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## 1. Introduction

With the continuing review of preparedness for the possibility of a deliberate or accidental release of Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) materials in the United Kingdom (UK), the Department of Health (DH) in collaboration with the Police Service has identified the need to enhance the safety of Ambulance personnel. Much work has been carried out regarding the provision of protective equipment for personnel working within the Decontamination environment and a means for first responders to escape from a CBRN/Hazmat scenario has now been provided.

The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust recognises that there is a potential threat from both accidental and deliberate releases of CBRN materials to the first responders of an actual CBRN event. The EH20 Escape hood has been specifically designed to CE0088 standard to give first responders the ability to provide themselves with respiratory protection for a maximum of 20 minutes which will enable them to escape from an actual or potential hazardous environment.

## 2. Objectives:

1. To provide a standard approach for the use of the Escape Hood.
2. To ensure all staff issued with the EH20 Escape Hood understand its purpose, capabilities and understand the actions to be taken when in an actual or potential contaminated area.
3. To safeguard the health, safety and welfare of LAS staff.

## 3. Purpose of the EH20 Escape Hood

- 3.1. The EH20 escape hood is a specifically designed piece of personal protective equipment and is standard issue to all UK Ambulance Service NHS Trusts. It is an effective and safe piece of equipment which will afford the wearer time to escape from a contaminated area and thus reduce the potential for harm.
- 3.2. The decision to introduce this equipment into the ambulance services is based on the need to fulfil a duty of care to staff and not as a direct result of any increase in threat to personnel or any specific intelligence.

## 4. Procedure

- 4.1 The EH20 will be personal issue to all operational members of staff and is to be regarded as a piece of personal safety equipment. Staff are required to carry the pouch where it will be easily accessible whilst on

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operational duties. Being without an EH20 is not just cause for being unavailable to attend a call.

- 4.2. There are operational issues around the wearing of the EH20 on the belt during normal activities and driving. It is therefore acceptable to have the EH20 in an easily accessible place at all times. The exception to this will be if the current security alert level elevates to CRITICAL at which time staff will be informed of the increased threat and advised that the EH20 will be worn.
- 4.3. Under NO circumstances should the EH20 be used in NON Oxygen atmospheres, i.e., Smoke and/or fire or any other non-respiratory atmospheres.
- 4.4. Staff on approach to scene will carry out a dynamic risk assessment. If there are any obvious signs of a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear release or following a STEPS 123 scene assessment the member of staff believes that they are in a potential CBRN environment then they should don the EH20 as per manufacturers instructions and the training which has been provided.
- 4.5. Staff should inform EOC with a METHANE/CHALET report as soon as is practicable and safe to do so. Information passed to EOC should include personal telephone contact details.
- 4.6. Staff should then retire to a safe distance of 100m upwind. If there are casualties present these should be encouraged to move away from the source of the actual or potential contamination. NO attempt should be made by staff to treat any patients remaining at the scene.
- 4.7. Staff should then remove EH20 as per instructions and training. They should then await further advice from HART, EOC, Tactical Support Officer (TSO) and/or the DSO/Team Leader in charge of the scene.
- 4.8. Do NOT deploy any resources to scene until advised to do so by the HART Supervisor, Tactical Support Officer.
- 4.9. Complete the incident report form in accordance with the [Incident Reporting procedure \(LA52\)](#)
- 4.10.A DSO or Team Leader will ensure that the necessary support and welfare arrangements are put in place to support any member of staff who has been involved in this incident. The TSO will ensure any exposure log is completed.

## 5. EOC Actions

- 5.1. Upon notification of deployment of the EH20 Escape hood a CHALETS/METHANE report should be taken along with the telephone

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contact details of the member(s) of staff involved. Contact should then be made with the HART Supervisor or DSO/Team Leader. The on call Tactical Support Officer should be paged. The incident should be treated as a CBRN/Hazmat incident until proven otherwise.

## 6. Maintenance

- 6.1. As this is a one use only piece of equipment there is no maintenance required other than to ensure that the packaging including the vacuum pack is intact. This check should be carried out prior to any operational duty.
- 6.2. If the outer case is damaged or the vacuum lost a replacement should be sought at the earliest opportunity from the station management team.

<b>IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b>	
<b>Intended Audience</b>	For all Operational staff
<b>Dissemination</b>	Available to all staff on the Pulse
<b>Communications</b>	Revised Procedure to be announced in the RIB and a link provided to the document
<b>Training</b>	A package including theory and practical training will be delivered by cascade training
<b>Monitoring</b>	Station Management will ensure Staff carry the EH20 by carrying out regular checks