

Bayfield-Ashland Counties EMS TOXINS / ENVIRONMENTAL Chemical Exposure	EC-6 RIOT CONTROL AGENTS
--	-----------------------------

SYMPTOMS:

- A. Eyes: tearing, pain, conjunctivitis, blurred vision
- B. Nose, mouth, throat: rhinorrhea (runny nose), burning or pain, trouble swallowing, drooling
- C. Lungs: chest tightness, coughing, choking sensation, wheezing dyspnea
- D. Skin: burning, redness, dermatitis
- E. GI: nausea and vomiting are rare and but may occur post tussive (after coughing).

ASSESSMENT and TREATMENT

ALL LEVELS

1. Assess scene safety. Evaluate for hazards to EMS, patient and bystanders:
 - a. Determine riot control agent being used
 - b. Don appropriate PPE
 - c. Determine number of patients
2. Assure victims have moved from the contaminated environment into fresh air.
3. Have patient remove contact lenses if appropriate.
4. Irrigation with water or saline is recommended for decontamination of dermal and ocular exposure.
5. Obtain and monitor vital signs; continue with secondary surveys.
6. If patient in respiratory distress, go to [Airway Management guideline \[R-1\]](#).
7. If patient is wheezing, go to [Bronchospasm guideline \[R-2\]](#).
8. For persistent pain of the eye or skin go to [Topical Chemical Burn guideline \[EC-7\]](#).

COMMON RIOT CONTROL AGENT INFORMATION

- CN (Mace®)
- CS (component of tear gas)
- OC (pepper spray)
- Symptoms begin within seconds of exposure, are self-limited and are best treated by removing patient from ongoing exposure.
- Symptoms frequently decrease over time (15 to 45 minutes) after exposure ends.
- Toxicity is related to time of exposure, concentration of agent used, and site ventilation.