

## **Preparing to Respond: Oklahoma EMS Professional Learn to Treat Victims of HAZMAT Exposure**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OKLAHOMA CITY – Whether from a chemical spill or a dirty bomb, toxic exposures are real threats. When Oklahoma Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responders get the call about possible casualties from a HAZMAT incident, they need the most up-to-date knowledge and training to provide effective, life-saving treatment.

The Oklahoma Center for Poison & Drug Information is offering the two-day Advanced HAZMAT Life Support (AHLS)™ Course, June 21-22, 2018 in Oklahoma City, to train medical responders how to provide the best medical care due to incidents, such as chemical spills or biological attacks. This course is FREE to Oklahoma medical residents, and includes 16 hours of FREE CME and FREE AHLS Verification. Course participants will learn to rapidly assess hazmat patients, recognize the symptoms of a particular toxic substance and immediately give the appropriate antidote.

The AHLS course is designed for paramedics, registered nurses, physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, toxicologists, pharmacists, military medical personnel and other healthcare professionals. As the first and most comprehensive training program to provide the critical skills necessary to effectively manage all aspects of hazmat exposure, emergency medicine personnel will be ready to face the medical challenges that can come at any time.

For more information about the course in Oklahoma City, visit the AHLS website at [www.ahls.org](http://www.ahls.org) and click on Upcoming Courses or call Shirley Christie at 405-271-5062. AHLS was developed at The Arizona Emergency Medical Research Center (AEMRC), a Center of Excellence at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, in collaboration with the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology.

Pharmacists and registered nurses at the poison center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (800) 222-1222. Please do not email the poison center or a member of the poison center staff, as poisoning emergencies are not handled through email. The Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug

Information is a program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy at the OU Health Sciences Center. For more information, visit [OklahomaPoison.org](http://OklahomaPoison.org).

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