



# POISONING:

## Recognition & Management

Here's what you, as a First Aider, need to know to recognise and manage a poisoning emergency.

**Life Saving First Aid**

CPR + First Aid Training

### ACCIDENTAL POISONING

#### Recognition



#### What it is:

When someone unintentionally drinks, eats, breathes, injects or touches enough of a hazardous substance to cause illness or death.

#### Examples:

Pharmaceutical drugs, alcohol, cleaning products, pesticides, Carbon Monoxide.

#### Symptoms

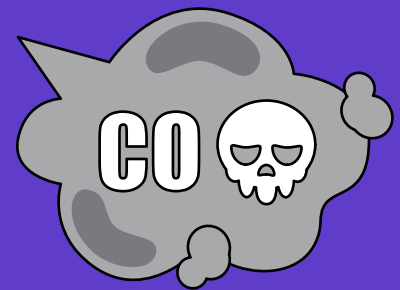
- Fitting
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Falling over
- Drowsiness
- Abdominal pain
- Unconsciousness

#### Management

- 1 First, ensure you can safely assist them.
  - 2 If conscious, ask them what happened and what they have been exposed to.
  - 3 NEVER try to induce vomiting.
  - 4 Call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 (24/7, Australia wide)
  - 5 If they become unconscious, CALL 000 and start CPR.
- Be mindful of toxic residue on the casualty's lips. Do compression-only CPR or use a face shield.

### CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

#### Recognition



#### What it is:

When Carbon Monoxide, a toxic gas with fumes that are impossible to see, taste, or smell, is inhaled.

#### Examples:

Combustion engines and any appliances that use gas, oil, kerosene, or wood can produce carbon monoxide.

#### Symptoms

- Drowsiness
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Chest Pain
- Headaches
- Weakness
- Confusion
- Shortness of Breath
- Unconsciousness and Death (when exposed to high CO levels)

#### Management

- 1 CALL 000
- 2 Ensure you can safely assist them. If it's too dangerous, do not try.
- 3 Get the casualty to clean air (if safe to do so).
- 4 Monitor their condition.
- 5 If they become unconscious, perform CPR & Defibrillation.