(U) Summary:
(U//FOUO) On Wednesday, 9 January, the Sturgeon Lake rest stop on Interstate 35 was closed due to a chemical suicide. A note on the car warned responders that “HAZMAT” was present. Emergency responders noted that the vehicle contained containers of common household items, that when combined, resulted in toxic gas and liquid. In this instance, hazardous liquid leaked from the vehicle onto the pavement, exposing several emergency responders who were treated and released after being exposed to the material.

(U//FOUO) Chemical suicide is a national trend; Minnesota has had ten instances of chemical suicide reported in the last 18 months, with two reported deaths in the last two months. All seven incidents that occurred in vehicles resulted in death. Three other instances occurred in buildings and, of those, two resulted in death. Detailed information on chemical suicides recipes, ingredients, and methods can easily be obtained through an internet search.

(U//FOUO) Who to Call:
First responders are asked to call the Minnesota Duty Officer at (651) 649-5451 or (800) 422-0798 and resources will be dispatched to assist.

(U//FOUO) Warning signs:
• Subject appears unconscious and unresponsive
• Suicide note
• Tape over vents and windows
• Smell of rotten eggs
• Typically a posted warning to rescuers of present danger
• Bucket, pail, pot or cooler in the vehicle containing chemicals
• Empty containers of chemicals in or around the vehicle
(U//FOOU) Response to Detergent Suicide in a Vehicle

- Survey the scene
- Survey the inside of the vehicle
- Determine responsiveness of subject
- Conscious or unconscious
- Appears to be breathing – chest rise and fall
- If the subject is conscious can they open the door and exit the vehicle, have the subject walk / crawl away from vehicle to fresh air.
- Be careful when treating the patient due to the off gassing from the subjects clothing and exhaled breaths.
- If the subject is unconscious and there is no apparent breathing for 30 seconds to a minute stand by for HAZMAT and back away from the vehicle.

(U//FOOU) Response to a chemical suicide in a dwelling

- Any outward visual signs as you approach the residence or apartment building
- Signs posted on the front of the house
- Other persons from inside the house complaining of difficulty breathing
- The smell of rotten eggs or sewer gas in the area and gets stronger as you approach the target residence
- Be prepared to evacuate the residence or apartment building

Approaching vehicle, responders can clearly see there is some type of signing on the vehicles windows.

What if the approach was at night would the signage still be clear?
Be aware of the foul smell of sewer gas or rotten eggs as you approach.
(U//FOUO) Typical chemicals used include:

**Acid Sources**
- Muriatic acid
- Sulfuric acid
- Lysol disinfectant
- Lysol toilet bowl cleaner
- The Works toilet bowl cleaner
- Blu-lite Germicidal acid bowl cleaner
- Kaboom Shower, Tub and Tile Cleaner
- Tile and Stone cleaners

**Sulfur Sources**
- Artist oil paints
- Dandruff shampoos
- Pesticides
- Spackling paste
- Latex Paints
- Garden fungicides
- Lime Sulfur
- Bonide

(U//FOUO) Resources for First Responders:
Please log onto icefishx, [www.icefishx.org](http://www.icefishx.org), and click the link to view the resource documents.

Chemical Suicides: Identification Guide for 911 Communications, Central Florida Intelligence Exchange, February 2011
Chemical Suicides Bulletin, Virginia Fusion Center, February 2012
Chemical Suicides in Automobiles – Six States 2006 – 2010, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2011
Chemical Assisted Suicide: Responder Information, National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center
Hydrogen Sulfide Suicide, Regional Organized Crime Information Center
(U) Hydrogen Sulfide: A Potential First Responder Hazard, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, September 2008
Chemical Suicides in Automobiles — Six States, 2006–2010, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2011

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback, please contact MNJAC at 651-793-3730 or info@icefishx.org

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