

14th December 2018

Protective Security Information for the Business Community

National Bulletin

Informative message — Self Defence Sprays concealed as cosmetics

The following is an informative message in relation to self-defence sprays concealed as cosmetics and is sent on behalf of the National CBRN Centre.

Items believed to be self-defence sprays have appeared in recent police incidents. The sprays resemble cosmetic atomisers, as indicated in the image.

The containers are easily damaged. This can lead to a leaking of the chemical inside, which may be an issue if handled.

It must be stressed there has been a limited number of reports at this time. There is no suggestion this is terrorism related.

We believe all the items to date have been deliberately ordered. We do not believe this is related to any malicious campaign.



Indications and actions

Individuals affected by these items reported symptoms such as sore eyes, nose and mouth, apparently from inhalation and a degree of skin contact. This improved once casualties were moved to fresh air and the substance removed from their skin.

The emergency services have quickly determined the substances involved in incidents to date were not toxic, but may cause some irritation and onset of mild symptoms similar to those listed above.

Internet research indicates these items are easily purchased. The assessment of the National CBRN Centre is these packages may be ordered and/or received by others and create similar outcomes.

There is no suggestion this is terrorism related. Advice at this time is to assess packages where suspicion is raised in accordance with your existing protocols and determine the most appropriate level of action.

If you think someone has been exposed to a
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE
Use caution and keep a safe distance to avoid exposure yourself.
TELL THOSE AFFECTED TO:



REMOVE THEMSELVES. **REMOVE** OUTER CLOTHING. **REMOVE** THE SUBSTANCE.
ACT QUICKLY. These actions can **SAVE LIVES**.

We would encourage all such incidents of this nature to be reported to the National CBRN Centre cbrnopscentre@westmidlands.pnn.police.uk or 0845 000 6382 if immediate advice is required.

Anyone exposed to a hazardous substance should in the first instance remove themselves from the hazard (fresh air is best), remove affected clothing, remove the substance. Always seek medical assistance.