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The Evaluation Of Contaminant Emission And Transfer From A “used” Decontaminant

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In the event that personnel are contaminated with a chemical warfare agent (CWA), rapid skin decontamination is essential to reduce adverse health effects to the individual. While the main purpose of a skin decontamination product is to remove the CWA from the individual and prevent CWA absorption into the skin, it is advantageous that the “used” product does not become a source of cross contamination to other individuals or assets via vapor off gassing or contact transfer. This can be achieved via irreversible sorption or neutralization of the CWA in the decontamination product. In the case that the CWA availability in a “used” product cannot be directly measured, the DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center have successfully demonstrated indirect methods to evaluate the off gassing and contact transfer of CWAs from three different “used” decontamination products with and without neutralizing components. Results and conclusions of these studies will be presented to illustrate the use of these evaluations as a metric for skin decontaminant efficacy.

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