FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Insert date)
For information, contact:
(Insert contact information)

Headline

(Insert information about the event)

Local authorities believe that people who were at (insert location) on (insert date and time) may have been exposed to the chemical chlorine. Public Health and other local authorities are investigating this incident.

Chlorine is an element used in industry and found in some household products. It is sometimes in the form of a poisonous gas. Chlorine gas can be recognized by its pungent, irritating odor, which is like the odor of bleach. The strong smell may provide an adequate warning to people that they have been exposed. Chlorine gas appears to be yellow-green in color.

The extent of poisoning caused by chlorine depends on the amount of chlorine a person is exposed to, how the person was exposed, and the length of time of the exposure. When chlorine gas comes into contact with moist tissues such as the eyes, throat, and lungs, an acid is produced that can damage these tissues.

During or immediately after exposure to dangerous concentrations of chlorine, the following signs and symptoms may develop:

- Coughing;
- Chest tightness;
- Burning sensation in the nose, throat, and eyes;
- Watery eyes;
- Blurred vision;
- Nausea and vomiting;
- Burning pain, redness, and blisters on the skin if exposed to gas, skin injury similar to frostbite if exposed to liquid chlorine;
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath (may appear immediately if high concentrations of chlorine gas are inhaled, or may be delayed if low concentrations of chlorine gas are inhaled); and
- Fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema) within 2 to 4 hours.

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No antidote exists for chlorine exposure. Treatment consists of removing the chlorine from the body as soon as possible and providing supportive medical care in a hospital setting.

If you believe you have been exposed, or if you have any of the symptoms associated with chlorine, please seek medical attention immediately.

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