

15TH DECEMBER 2022 | @ELPASOTELLER911.ORG | 719-785-1900



### Where to go when...

It is essential to understand exactly what has happened when a caller is reporting a suicidal person or a person who has attempted to self-harm. The method of self-harm is critical when selecting the appropriate chief complaint.

If a person has attempted suicide by taking a substance, regardless of the amount or type, the call is processed on Protocol 23 Overdose/ Poisoning (Ingestion). Protocol 23 will address both the unique scene safety concerns of an overdose or poisoning incident and the health concerns of these types of situations.



Callers often use the word overdose to refer to any ingestion of a potentially dangerous amount of a substance. In a dispatch environment overdose refers to the intentional intake of a potentially harmful substance. Poisoning is defined in the MPDS as Accidental intake of a potentially harmful substance.

The intent of KQ 1 on Protocol 23 "Was this accidental or Intentional?" is to determine if the patient is suicidal or a threat to responders. We want to know if the patient **accidentally** took something or took "too much" of something (**POISONING**). Versus **intentionally** taking something with the intent to harm oneself (**Overdose**). When a recreational drug user ingests an unsafe amount of drugs or more than is intended while seeking a high, this would be considered accidental (Poisoning).

The call is processed on Protocol 25 Psychiatric/ Suicide Attempt when a person is threatening self-harm, has intentionally cut themselves, threatening to jump, or has already jumped. Protocol 25 focuses on the type of medical assistance the patient needs in the event of a suicide attempt; however, different methods of an intended suicide attempt may be better handled on a more appropriate Protocol.



### Rules to Remember

If the actual type of suicide attempt is determined to be overdose, carbon monoxide, stab, or gunshot wound, go to and dispatch from the more specific protocol.

If the complaint description involves hazardous materials that pose a threat to bystanders or responders, go to Protocol 8.

Recreational inhalations of a potentially harmful substance should be handled on Protocol 23.

### Sources

- Accidental or Intentional – IAED Journal.org
- The MPDS Overdose/Poisoning (Ingestion) Protocol v13.3

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<b>Title</b> Protocol 23 & Protocol 25	<b>Date</b> 12/15/2022
<b>CDE Discipline</b> Medical	<b>CDE Credit Hours</b> .5 hour

I verify that I have read or have watched the contents of this document or video and am familiar.

YouTube link: N/A

Please return this to your agency's training coordinator for CDE credit. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us at [911training@elpasoteller911.org](mailto:911training@elpasoteller911.org)

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**Signature**

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**DATE**

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**Printed Name**

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**Agency**