



Oakland County Fire Mutual Aid Association
MABAS Division 3201

Hazardous Materials Bulletin



Old Girl Scout First Aid Kits Containing Bandages with Picric Acid



Recently an incident in Colorado occurred in which a hazmat team and bomb squad responded when an old girl scout first aid was discovered to contain several 4x4 bandages with picric acid. As a result, many Girl Scout facilities and participants have been notified to check their old first aid kits to determine if they contain the picric acid bandages. If discovered, the Girl scouts have been advised to call 911.

Responders, and the general public, may be aware of the shock sensitive explosion hazard posed by lab grade picric acid. The medical grade picric acid in these first aid kits does **NOT** pose the same degree of hazard.

If a fire or police department receives a call regarding a first aid kit containing picric acid bandages, the following steps are recommended:

1. Send one apparatus or officer to investigate.
2. Isolate the immediate room affected or 75 ft. radius if outdoors
3. Request assistance from the Hazmat Duty Officer.

The hazmat duty officer will neutralize the bandages so they can be disposed of as household hazardous waste.

For incidents involving a bottle(s) of lab grade picric acid (2,4,6-Trinitrophenol), the Hazmat Duty Officer will recommend the incident be upgraded to a Level 1 Hazmat and assistance requested from MSP Bomb Squad.

Officer Safety Caution: The procedures in this bulletin are only intended to be used by Oakland County MABAS Division 3201 members only. Public safety agencies outside Division 3201 should consult local subject matter experts on safe handling procedures.