Chemical Suicide Attempt’s

It seems that over the past year, not a month goes by without a national publication reporting either a successful Chemical Suicide, or Chemical Suicide Attempt. With either outcome the hazards for 1st Responders remains the same, and we must remain vigilant in our response.

Just in the past 3 months, there have been two successful Chemical Suicides in Greenville County. If you don’t think chemical suicide is possible in our District, think again. It has started to become more popular in the United States as more incidents like the stories below become public. As you’ll read some are not looking to harm anyone other than themselves, and will leave a note to warn 1st Responders, and some are just mad at the world and could careless who they take out with them.

On February 12 The Rochester (MN) Fire Department’s HAZMAT unit was called into action early Sunday morning after a woman attempted suicide by mixing household chemicals in a pail.

Deputy Chief Steve Belau says the incident was reported around 4:14am at the Sunrise Trailer Park at the junction of Highway 63 North and 75th Street after Olmsted County Sheriff’s Deputies located a vehicle linked to a report of a suicidal person that was received by the law enforcement center in Rochester late Saturday night. The woman had mixed chemicals in a pail placed inside the vehicle in order to create a toxic gas. After deputies safely removed the woman from the vehicle, she was transported to St. Mary’s Hospital. Information about her condition is not available.

The Fire Department’s HAZMAT team put on breathing apparatus and used multi-gas detectors and testing paper to assess the danger and found there were no longer any hazards from the chemicals, which were then disposed of.

Chief Belau says, about once a year, the fire department responds to incidents involving the accidental creation of toxic chlorine gas caused by the mixing of common household cleaning materials.

On August 23rd of last year In Oregon, Authorities blocked off Botkin Road in Philomath for several hours in response to a report of dangerous chemicals inside a vehicle. Responding officials found a man dead inside the vehicle, and said the incident appeared to be a suicide.

Benton County Sheriff’s Office deputies and Philomath firefighters responded at around 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to a report of hazardous chemicals inside a vehicle that was parked on the side of Botkin Road.

Benton County Sheriff Scott Jackson said the man, who was not identified Tuesday, filled the vehicle with deadly chemicals, a type of incident known as a chemical suicide.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these types of incidents involve mixing chemicals in a confined space and breathing in the resulting poisonous gas. He did put a note on the window warning law enforcement that there were chemicals inside, Jackson said.