

Emergency Response

FROM THE
CASE FILES

A Rockland County homeowner mixed calcium hypochlorite (pool shock treatment) and hydrochloric acid in an aluminum pan in the kitchen of his home. The chemicals reacted and produced hydrogen and chlorine gas, resulting in an explosion. The explosion blew out a window and sent two adults to the hospital with breathing problems. Four firefighters required decontamination at the scene. The homeowner was advised not to re-enter the home until a hazmat contractor could be hired to complete the cleanup.

Immediate actions

If victim has difficulty breathing:

- Move victim to fresh air
- Call 9-1-1

If chemical comes in contact with eyes:

- Flush eyes with running water
- Call 9-1-1

If chemical comes in contact with skin:

- Remove any contaminated clothing
- Flush skin with running water
- Call 9-1-1

Helpful tips to avoid an emergency

- Educate yourself about pool chemicals.
- Read labels before using chemicals and follow instructions.
- Follow correct chemical storage guidelines.
- Keep chemicals out of reach of children.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling chemicals.