



M256A1

Chemical Agent Detector Kit

Description: Each kit consists of 12 disposable sampler-detectors, one booklet of M8 paper, and a set of instruction cards attached by a lanyard to a plastic carrying case. The case is made from molded, high-impact plastic and has a nylon carrying strap and a nylon belt attachment. Each sampler-detector contains a square impregnated spot for blister agents, a circular test spot for blood agents, a star test spot for nerve agents, and a lewisite-detecting tablet and rubbing tab. The test spots are made of standard laboratory filter paper. There are eight glass ampoules, six containing reagents for testing and two in an attached chemical heater. When the ampoules are crushed between the fingers, formed channels in the plastic sheets direct the flow of liquid reagent to wet the test spots. Each test spot or detecting tablet develops a distinctive color which indicates whether a chemical agent is or is not present in the air.



Overview: The kit is a portable, expendable item capable of detecting and identifying hazardous concentrations of chemical agents and is used after a chemical attack to determine if it is safe to unmask or reduce the protective posture level. It also determines the type of agent present or confirms the absence of a hazardous concentration of agent.

Status: The use of eel enzyme for the nerve test in place of horse enzyme provides for an improvement to the M256A1 Kit by detecting lower levels of nerve agent. Any type of mustard is also detectable as long as vapor is present. Do not hold the sampler-detector in direct sunlight while exposing test spots. Prior to breaking glass ampoules (except heater ampoules), place one heater pad on each side of the sampler-detector, covering the ampoule to be broken. These pads will prevent pieces of glass from cutting your gloves or hands. Avoid vapors that may burn while crushing heater ampoules. Hold sampler-detector down to one side while vapors are venting. Avoid sampling in smoke from burning debris because results may not be accurate. Each sampler-detector contains some hazardous materials; therefore, used or expired kits must be disposed of in accordance with local procedures.



For additional information, please contact U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, ATTN: AMSSB-RSO-DDN, Rock Island, IL 61299-7390. The System Manager can also be reached by telephone at (309) 782-6948 or DSN 793-6948.