CHEMICAL AGENT IDENTIFICATION SETS

The U.S. Army used Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS) from 1928 to 1969 to train Soldiers and sailors in the safe handling, identification and decontamination of chemical warfare agents. The Army produced the identification sets in large quantities and various configurations, distributing the items over a broad area.

The sets consist of chemical agents placed in glass ampoules, vials and bottles then packed in metal shipping containers or wooden boxes. In some cases, after use in training, the Army buried CAIS items. Occasionally, only the glass vials or bottles containing chemical agent from CAIS were buried.

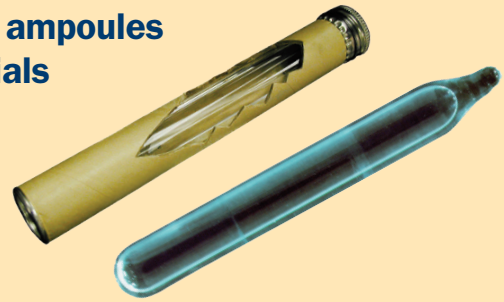
Many sets have been discovered periodically in storage and at burial sites. In the early 1980s, the Army destroyed approximately 21,000 CAIS, the entire quantity then left in storage.

Periodically, a recovery of CAIS items occurs. When this happens, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate safely destroys the items using its proven transportable treatment technology, the Single CAIS Access and Neutralization System (SCANS).

If you encounter these items, please call your local emergency personnel. Do not touch or move these items as they may contain small amounts of chemical agent.

CAIS CONFIGURATIONS

Glass ampoules and vials



Could contain:

- 5% lewisite in chloroform
- Pure phosgene
- GA-simulant
- 5% sulfur mustard in chloroform 10% nitrogen mustard in chloroform Pure cyanogen chloride
- 50% chloropicrin in chloroform

Glass bottles

Could contain:

- Pure sulfur mustard
- Lewisite on charcoal
- Chloropicrin on charcoal
- Solid chloroacetophenone
- Sulfur mustard on charcoal
- Nitrogen mustard on charcoal
- Solid triphosgene
- Solid adamsite

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