

TITLE: The CBNR chain of survival and its mnemonic device “I AM THOR”, a new cognitive tool to teach initial measures in undertaking a CBRN event on the battlefield.

ABSTRACT:

CBRN risk for deployed fighters has come back to the forefront since the latest Syrian and Ukrainian crises. Reaching an adequate level of training in this topic can be difficult given the extent of the knowledge required. However, during the first minutes, the exposed troop will have to handle the situation alone, and initiate the appropriate response.

The Paris Fire Brigade developed in 2019, a cognitive tool, called the CBNR chain of survival (CBNR-CS), to point out five essential tasks that first responders should perform in managing CBRN situation. These tasks are inseparable, and they should be performed in the following order: 1. Spot decontamination to reduce toxicity and prevent the spread of contamination; 2. Early toxidrome recognition to warn and prepare the healthcare chain; 3. Early antidote administration to prevent illness and death; 4. Thorough decontamination to protect the healthcare system; 5. Evacuation and transport to the hospital to continue the medical management of casualties.

In 2020, we added the mnemonic device « I AM THOR » to the CBNR-CS to increase the long-term memorization and help them to initiate the main tasks required in any given CBRN situations. This cognitive tool is aimed for anyone who is not a CBRN expert, but who could face a CBRN event, regardless the nature of the agent.

