

Chemical Suicide

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(AP) Authorities in eastern Minnesota say first responders are dealing with a new and dangerous phenomenon chemical suicide. Washington County Sheriff's Cmdr. Brian Mueller says his department dealt with its first case over the weekend. A person had committed suicide by mixing household chemicals in a bucket, creating a deadly gas. The body of a man from Prescott, Wis., was found in a car in Point Douglas Park. Mueller says when first responders arrived they detected a faint smell of chemicals and called St. Paul hazardous materials squad. He says more training is needed for first responders because they ``may not know what they're walking into when they open the car door." Mueller says the haz-mat squad has dealt with similar incidents in the Twin Cities metro area.