

Sarin (GB)



What is Sarin?

Sarin, also known as GB, is a type of chemical warfare agent called a "nerve agent." Nerve agents are some of the most toxic substances ever produced by man. Many nerve agents were originally created as pesticides and then used as weapons.

Sarin is the most volatile of the nerve agents, which means that it can easily and quickly evaporate from a liquid into a vapor and spread into the environment. These vapors are heavier than air and will settle in low-lying areas. Because it evaporates so quickly, Sarin presents an immediate but short-lived threat. When pure, Sarin is an odorless and colorless clear liquid.

How can people be exposed to Sarin?

If Sarin is released into the air, people can be exposed through skin contact, eye contact, or breathing. If released into the water, people can be exposed by touching or drinking the water. They may also be exposed by eating contaminated food.

A person's clothing can release Sarin for 30 minutes after contact with the vapor, exposing other people.

Exposure to high enough levels of Sarin gas or liquid can cause death within a matter of minutes.

What are the health effects of Sarin?

Health effects depend on the amount, route of exposure, and length of time a person has been exposed.

Health effects include:

Runny nose, tightness in the chest, pin point pupils, shortness of breath, excessive drooling and sweating, increased urination, abnormal heart rate and blood pressure, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, muscle twitching, confusion, seizures, paralysis, coma, respiratory paralysis, and death.

These effects can be seen as early as 1 to 10 minutes after exposure, depending on the amount and duration of exposure.

Showing these signs and symptoms does not necessarily mean that a person has been exposed to Sarin.

How is Sarin treated?

Treatment consists of removing Sarin from the body as soon as possible and providing supportive medical care in a hospital setting. Antidotes are available for Sarin. They are most useful if given as soon as possible after exposure.

What should I do if exposed to Sarin?

If you think you have been exposed to Sarin the best thing to do is leave the area and get to fresh air, go up wind, or to higher ground.

Both the liquid and vapor form can contaminate clothing. Remove all your clothes avoid making skin contact if possible, clothing that needs to be pulled over the head should be cut off to avoid contact with face and eyes.

All clothing should be put in a plastic bag, sealed, and placed in a second bag and sealed. Emergency personnel will take care of the bags.

Wash your entire body with large amounts of soap and water. Rinse your eyes with plain water for 10 to 15 minutes if they are burning or if vision is blurred.

If you think you swallowed Sarin do not drink liquids or induce vomiting. Seek medical attention immediately.

Source: www.cdc.gov

Poison control center hotline: 1-800-222-1222

District Health Department #10

Crawford Co 989-348-7800	Kalkaska Co 231-258-8669	Lake Co 231-745-4663
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Manistee Co 231-723-3595	Mason Co 231-845-7381	Mecosta Co 231-592-0130
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Missaukee Co 231-839-7167	Newaygo Co 231-689-7300	Oceana Co 231-873-2193
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Wexford Co 231-775-9942

District Health Department #10

Tabun (GA)**What Is Tabun?**

Tabun, also known as GA, is a type of chemical warfare agents called a “nerve agent.” Nerve agents are some of the most toxic substances ever produced by man. Many nerve agents were originally created as pesticides and then used as weapons.

It is a clear, colorless, tasteless liquid with a faint fruity odor. It can become a vapor if heated. Tabun vapors are heavier than air and will settle in low-lying areas.

How can people be exposed to Tabun?

If Tabun is released into the air people can be exposed through skin contact, eye contact, or breathing. If released into the water, people can be exposed by touching or drinking the water. They may also be exposed by eating contaminated food.

What are the health effects of Tabun?

Health effects depend on the amount, route of exposure, and length of time a person has been exposed.

Health effects include:

Runny nose, tightness in the chest, pinpoint pupils, eye pain, watery eyes, blurred vision, drooling and excessive sweating, increased urination, abnormal heart rate and blood pressure, nausea, vomiting, cough, abdominal pain, diarrhea, drowsiness, weakness, headache, confusion, rapid breathing, loss of consciousness, convulsions, paralysis, respiratory paralysis, and possibly death.

Some or all of these symptoms can be seen within seconds to hours, depending on the amount and duration of exposure.

Showing these signs and symptoms does not necessarily mean that a person has been exposed to Tabun.

How Is Tabun Treated?

Treatment consists of removing Tabun from the body as soon as possible and providing supportive hospital care when possible.

Antidotes are available and are most useful if given as soon as possible after exposure.

What should I do if exposed to Tabun?

If you think you have been exposed to Tabun the best thing to do is leave the area and get to fresh air, go up wind, or to higher ground.

If the liquid is on your clothing, remove all your clothes and avoid making skin contact if possible, clothing that needs to be pulled over the head should be cut off to avoid contact with face and eyes.

All clothing should be put in a plastic bag, sealed, and placed in a second bag and sealed. Emergency personnel will take care of the bags.

Wash your entire body with large amounts of soap and water. Rinse your eyes with plain water for 10 to 15 minutes if they are burning or vision is blurred.

If you think you swallowed Tabun, do not drink liquids or induce vomiting. Seek medical attention immediately.

Source: www.cdc.gov

For immediate assistance, call the poison control center hotline: 1-800-222-1222

District Health Department #10

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