

Nitrogen Mustards



What are Nitrogen Mustards?

Nitrogen Mustards are called vesicants or blister agents because they cause blistering of the skin and mucous membranes on contact.

Nitrogen Mustards come in different forms that can smell fishy, musty, soapy, or fruity. They can be in the form of an oily-textured liquid, a vapor, or a solid. Nitrogen Mustards can be clear, pale amber or yellow colored when in liquid or solid form.

Nitrogen Mustards are not found naturally in the environment.

How can I be exposed to Nitrogen Mustards?

Nitrogen Mustards are heavier than air, so they will settle in low-lying areas. If Nitrogen mustards are released into the air, people can be exposed through skin contact, eye contact, or breathing.

If released into 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 Nitrogen Mustard?

Typically signs and symptoms of Nitrogen Mustard exposure do not occur immediately. Depending on the severity of the exposure, symptoms may not occur for several hours.

Skin: Redness usually develops within several hours after exposure, followed by blistering within 6 to 12 hours.

Eyes: Irritation, pain, swelling, and tearing may occur. High concentrations can cause burns and blindness.

Respiratory tract: Nose and sinus pain, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath may occur within hours.

Digestive tract: Abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting.

Brain: Tremors, incoordination, and seizures are possible following a large exposure.

Showing these signs or symptoms does not necessarily mean that a person has been exposed to Nitrogen Mustards.

How are Nitrogen Mustards treated?

No antidote exists for Nitrogen Mustard exposure. Treatment consists of removing Nitrogen Mustards from the body as soon as possible and providing supportive medical care in a hospital setting.

What should I do if exposed to Nitrogen Mustards?

If you think you have been exposed to Nitrogen Mustards, emergency coordinators may tell you to either evacuate the area or "shelter in place" (stay put and take cover) to avoid being exposed.

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 (including contacts) should be put in a plastic bag, sealed, and placed in a second bag and sealed. Emergency personnel 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 burning or blurred vision. If you think you swallowed Nitrogen Mustard, do not induce vomiting or drink fluids. 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
