

# Arsine



## What is Arsine?

Arsine is commonly used in the semiconductor and metals refining industry. It is formed when arsenic comes in contact with an acid.

Arsine is a colorless, nonirritating toxic gas with a mild garlic odor (only at high levels). Arsine vapors are heavier than air and will settle in low-lying areas.

## How can people be exposed to Arsine?

If Arsine gas is released into the air, people can be exposed through inhalation (breathing).

## What are the health effects of Arsine?

Health effects depend on the amount, and length of time a person has been exposed. Depending on the intensity of exposure to Arsine, symptoms may occur 2 to 24 hours after exposure. However, exposure to high doses of Arsine can be immediately fatal.

### *Health effects include:*

Nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain, drowsiness, weakness, headache, confusion, rapid breathing, shortness of breath, fatigue, red or dark urine, yellow skin and eyes (jaundice), muscles cramps loss of consciousness, convulsions, paralysis, respiratory paralysis, and possibly death.

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

## How is Arsine treated?

No antidotes are available for Arsine. Treatment consists of providing supportive medical care in a hospital setting. Blood transfusions and intravenous fluids may be needed. Some people may require hemodialysis (artificial kidneys) for kidney failure.

## What should I do if exposed to Arsine?

If you think you have been exposed to Arsine, the best thing to do is to leave the area and get to fresh air, move up wind or to higher ground. If you are near a release of Arsine, 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 they are burning or vision is blurred. Seek medical attention immediately.

Source: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

For immediate assistance, call the 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
Manistee Co 231-723-3595	Mason Co 231-845-7381	Mecosta Co 231-592-0130
Missaukee Co 231-839-7167	Newaygo Co 231-689-7300	Oceana Co 231-873-2193
Wexford Co 231-775-9942		

