

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

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		

Cyanide



What is Cyanide?

Cyanide is a rapidly acting potentially deadly chemical that can exist in various forms. It can be a colorless gas, such as hydrogen cyanide or cyanogens chloride or a crystal form such as sodium cyanide or potassium cyanide. Cyanide sometimes has a bitter almond smell but does not always give off an odor.

Cyanide enters water, soil or air as a result of both natural processes and industrial activities. In the air Cyanide is present mainly as gaseous hydrogen cyanide. It is less dense than air so it will rise.

How can people be exposed to Cyanide?

A person could be exposed to Cyanide by breathing air, drinking water, eating food, or touching contaminated soil. Breathing Cyanide gas causes the most harm, but ingesting (swallowing) it can be toxic as well. Cyanide gas is most dangerous in enclosed places where the gas will be trapped.

What are the health effects of Cyanide?

The extent of poisoning depends on the amount, route of exposure, and the length of time that a person is exposed. Cyanide prevents the body from using oxygen. When this happens, the cells die.

People exposed to small amounts of Cyanide will have some or all of the following symptoms:

Nausea and vomiting, weakness, headache, rapid breathing, rapid heart rate, restlessness, and dizziness.

People exposed to a large amount of Cyanide may experience:

Convulsions, low blood pressure, slow heart rate, loss of consciousness, lung injury, and respiratory failure leading to death.

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

How is Cyanide poisoning treated?

Cyanide poisoning is treated with specific antidotes and supportive medical care in a hospital setting. The most important thing is for victims to seek medical treatment as soon as possible.

What should I do if exposed to Cyanide?

If you think you have been exposed to Cyanide, the best thing to do is to leave the area and get to fresh air, move up wind or stay as low to the ground as possible. If you are near a release of Cyanide, 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 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. Seek medical attention immediately.

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