



PHOSGENE

I. Protocol Overview

Phosgene (CG), classified as a choking/pulmonary agent, is a gas at room temperature but can be converted into a liquid for shipment and storage. Initial symptoms can include mild irritation of the eyes and throat, with some coughing, choking, feeling of tightness in the chest, nausea and occasional vomiting, headache, and lacrimation. Severe effects may be delayed and include pulmonary edema and cardiovascular failure. Secondary systemic damage is the result of anoxia.

For all suspected chemical exposures, consult the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) located at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Information and treatment advice is available to the public and healthcare professionals at no charge.

Phosgene can be detected in the environment through the use of chemical sensors and hand-held testing equipment. Gas chromatography with nitrogen phosphorous detection (GC-NFD) methods is used to detect phosgene contamination in environmental and food samples. At present, there are no known clinical biomarkers for detection of phosgene in clinical samples. Rapid toxicological screening may rule out other exposures.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory does not perform this testing. Contact the CDC or the Poison Control Center.

II. Contact Information

24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

Poison Control Center: 215-386-2100

III. CDC Website

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/phosgene/basics/facts.asp>