



## ARSINE (AsH<sub>3</sub>)

### What is ARSINE?

Arsine is an industrial chemical and is considered a chemical warfare agent. Arsine is a flammable and highly toxic gas. Arsine has a garlic-like or fishy odor. Even if arsine's odor is not noticed, those present could have been seriously exposed.

### Signs and Symptoms:

Common symptoms include body aches, headaches, thirst, shivering, abdominal pain and difficulty breathing. These symptoms usually occur within 30-60 minutes with heavy exposure, but can be delayed for 2-24 hours. A blood disorder can occur within hours, followed by yellowing of the skin within 1-2 days. It can also result in kidney failure and death.

### Exposure:

Inhalation is the major route of exposure. There is little information about toxic effects on the skin or eyes. Liquid arsine exposure to the skin may result in frostbite injury.

### What can you do?

Emergency response leaders may direct people to evacuate or "shelter in place." Because no antidote exists for arsine exposure, the best thing to do is avoid it. First, get fresh air by leaving the area where the arsine was released. This is a good way to reduce the possibility of death from exposure to arsine.

### Treatment:

No specific treatment or antidote. Remove contaminated clothing immediately and wash exposed skin/eyes. Supportive hospital care is necessary. Seek medical care if you were exposed.

### Diagnosis:

Based on known or suspected exposure.

### Whom do you call?

Delaware Division of Public Health: 1-888-295-5156.

### For more information:

Visit the CDC website for Emergency Preparedness and Response: [www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov)