



BROMINE (CA)

I. Protocol Overview

Bromine (CA), classified as a choking/pulmonary agent, is a brownish liquid at room temperature but can be converted into a gas when heated. Bromine is irritating and corrosive to the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract. Exposure to bromine may cause burning of the eyes, nose, and throat, cough, constriction, shortness of breath, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, GI tract bleeding, headache, watery eyes, and brown discoloration of the mucous membranes and the tongue. Severe exposure can result in systemic poisoning, kidney damage, or brain damage from low blood pressure.

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.

Elevated bromide levels can be indicative of bromine or related compound exposure and can be detected in serum or plasma using ion chromatography (IC) or gas chromatography mass spectrometry headspace analysis (HS-GC/MS) techniques. Environmental and food samples involve additional extraction and pre-concentration steps prior to analysis by chromatographic mass spectrometry and related techniques.

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/bromine/basics/facts.asp>