



VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs)

I. Protocol Overview

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are a class of compounds that are often used as organic solvents. Signs and symptoms of exposure vary based on the individual compound. In general, inhalation exposure causes drowsiness, dizziness, rapid heart rate, headaches, tremors, confusion, unconsciousness or even death (at high levels). Ingestion of high levels can cause vomiting, irritation of the stomach, dizziness, sleepiness, convulsions, rapid heart rate, and death. Long-term (365 days or longer) exposure causes a multitude of harmful effects.

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.

Gas Chromatography Mass spectrometry (GC/MS) methods are used to detect the blood VOCs present in the sample. Sample components are separated and then quantified using mass spectrometry analysis. Purge and trap GC/MS methods are used to detect VOCs in environmental and food samples.

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://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/toxchemicallisting.asp?sysid=7>