



HYDROGEN FLUORIDE (HF)

What is HYDROGEN FLUORIDE?

Hydrogen fluoride is an industrial chemical and is considered a chemical warfare agent. Hydrogen fluoride is a naturally occurring and colorless gas that is very irritating to the skin, eyes, and lungs.

Exposure:

Inhalation, ingestion, and absorption through the skin or eyes.

Signs and symptoms:

Irritates and damages the skin, eyes, nose, and airways. Other symptoms include difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and irregular heartbeats, possibly leading to heart attack. Swallowing high levels can cause severe chemical imbalances in the body.

What can you do?

Emergency response leaders may direct people to evacuate or “shelter in place.” If hydrogen fluoride was released into the air, get fresh air by leaving the area where the chemical was released.

Treatment:

Rapid decontamination is critical due to rapid skin absorption. Certain medications can help lessen the effects of the chemical. The degree of pain is an indicator of whether the treatment is working. Supportive hospital care is often necessary.

Diagnosis:

Based on known or suspected exposure.

Whom do you call?

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

For more information:

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/>.

Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section
24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156
Contact Number: 302-223-2999

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