



## CHLORINE (Cl<sub>2</sub>)

### What is CHLORINE?

Chlorine is an industrial chemical and is considered a chemical warfare agent. Chlorine is a yellow-green gas with a strong and irritating odor. Chlorine can explode, especially when combined with other chemicals.

### Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms depend on the route and amount of exposure. Signs include difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, wheezing, cough, extensive throat, eye and nose irritation. Chlorine irritates the skin and can cause burning pain, swelling and blisters. Liquid chlorine can cause frostbite. Symptoms usually begin in 1-24 hours, but may take up to 72 hours after exposure.

### Exposure:

The primary route of exposure is by inhalation. Chlorine is not absorbed well into the skin. However, chlorine is a gas at room temperature and is highly irritating to the eyes, skin, throat and lungs. Touching liquid chlorine can cause severe chemical burns.

### What can you do?

Emergency response leaders may direct you to evacuate or “shelter in place.”

### Treatment:

No specific treatment or antidote. Remove contaminated clothing immediately and wash exposed skin/eyes. Supportive hospital care is often necessary.

### 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).