FACT SHEET – Sarin

SARIN IS A POISON

- Sarin is man-made.
  - It is made for chemical warfare.
  - It is also called GB.
  - It is not found in nature.

- Sarin can be either a liquid or a gas.
  - People cannot see, smell, or taste it.
  - The liquid evaporates quickly.
  - It remains in the environment only a short time.

- Sarin works on the body’s nerves.
  - It keeps muscles and glands from being able to “turn off.”
  - Muscles tire and finally stop working.
  - This can stop breathing.

SARIN IS VERY DANGEROUS

- Sarin is a “nerve agent.”
  - People who breathe sarin gas can get sick within seconds.
  - Sickness from liquid sarin can start in a few minutes to 18 hours.
  - Sarin poisoning depends on
    - how it is taken into the body
    - how much the body gets
    - how much time the body is exposed to it

- If people get a large dose of sarin they are likely to
  - pass out
  - have convulsions or be paralyzed
  - stop breathing

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services Frankfort, KY
http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/preparedness

Kentucky Regional Poison Center
Louisville, KY
EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222
Lake Cumberland District Health Dept.
(606) 678 – 4761
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA
Toll free: 1-800-311-3435
http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/sarin
FACT SHEET – *Sarin (continued)*

**IT IS POSSIBLE TO SURVIVE EXPOSURE TO SARIN**

- Avoiding sarin is the best protection.
  - Get out and stay away from areas where it has been released.
  - It sinks in air, so it is less likely to be on high ground.
  - Get to fresh air.

- There is an antidote.
  - The antidote blocks the effects of sarin.
  - It must be given very quickly after exposure for it to work.
  - Other medical care can help, if given quickly.

- Recovery is possible.
  - If exposed to sarin, get medical help as soon as possible.
  - People who get a small dose of sarin usually recover.
  - People who get a large dose often do not survive.