

FACT SHEET – *Cyanide*

CYANIDE IS A QUICK-ACTING POISON

- It is found in some minerals and plants and is used in manufacturing for
 - making paper and plastics
 - developing photographs
 - other uses
- It can be gas, crystal, or liquid. There are different forms such as
 - hydrogen cyanide
 - cyanogen chloride
 - sodium cyanide
 - potassium cyanide
- Cyanide has been used as a poison gas in
 - World War II
 - the Iran-Iraq War

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/cyanide>

CYANIDE PREVENTS THE BODY FROM GETTING OXYGEN

- People can be harmed if cyanide
 - is in the air they breathe
 - is in the water they drink
 - is in the food they eat
 - gets on their skin
- If a person gets small amounts, within minutes they may have
 - rapid breathing and heart rate
 - restlessness, dizziness, and weakness
 - headache, nausea, and vomiting
- If exposed to a large amount, a person can
 - have convulsions
 - pass out
 - have a slow heart beat and low blood pressure
 - stop breathing

FACT SHEET – *Cyanide (continued)*

PEOPLE CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS

- If you are in a place where cyanide has been released indoor
 - go outdoors if possible
 - get near the floor if you cannot get outdoors
- If you are outdoors, move away from the area.
- If cyanide has been released, call 911 for medical help.
- If cyanide gets on someone
 - rinse eyes with water for 10–15 minutes
 - remove clothing and seal it in a plastic bag
 - wash skin with soap and water
 - call 911 for medical help
- If someone swallows cyanide
 - don't make them vomit
 - don't let them drink anything
 - call 911 for medical help