

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.

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>

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

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.