

FACT SHEET – VX

VX IS A POISON

- VX is man-made.
 - It is made for chemical warfare.
 - It is not used for other purposes.
 - It is not found in nature.
- VX is usually a liquid but can be a gas.
 - It is a yellow and oily liquid.
 - People cannot smell or taste it.
 - It can last for days or months in the environment.
- VX 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/VX>

VX IS VERY DANGEROUS

- VX is the most powerful “nerve agent.”
 - People exposed to VX will get sick in seconds to hours.
 - A drop the size of a pinhead can affect people.
 - VX poisoning depends on
 - how it is taken into the body
 - how much the body gets
 - how much time the body is exposed to it
- People can be harmed if VX
 - gets on their skin or in their eyes
 - is in the food they eat or the water they drink
 - is in the air they breathe

FACT SHEET – VX (*continued*)

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

IT IS POSSIBLE TO SURVIVE EXPOSURE TO VX

- Avoiding VX is the best protection.
 - Get away and stay away from areas where it has been released.
 - VX 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 VX.
 - 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 VX, get medical help as soon as possible.
 - People who get a small dose of VX can recover.
 - People who get a large dose often do not survive.