



## Chemical Emergencies

<b>Sarin</b>	
<b>What is sarin?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarin is a man-made nerve agent used in warfare.</li> <li>• Nerve agents are the most toxic and rapidly acting of the known chemical warfare agents.</li> <li>• Sarin is a clear, colorless, and tasteless liquid that has no odor in its pure form. It can evaporate into a vapor (gas) and spread into the environment.</li> </ul>
<b>How does one become exposed to sarin?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following release of sarin into the air, exposure can occur through skin or eye contact, and by breathing contaminated air.</li> <li>• Sarin mixes easily with water, if released into the water, touching or drinking the water can cause exposure.</li> <li>• A person's clothing can release sarin for about 30 minutes after having come into contact with sarin, which can lead to exposure of other people.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the symptoms of exposure?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some or all of the following symptoms may be experienced within seconds to hours after exposure: runny nose, watery eyes, small pupils, eye pain, blurred vision, drooling and excessive sweating, cough, chest tightness, rapid breathing, diarrhea, increased urination, confusion, drowsiness, weakness, headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, slow or fast heart rate, and low or high blood pressure.</li> <li>• Mild or moderately exposed people usually recover completely. Severely exposed people are not likely to survive.</li> </ul>
<b>How can I protect myself from the release of sarin?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evacuate area where sarin was released and move to an area where fresh air is available.</li> <li>• If released outdoors, evacuate and move to the highest ground possible because sarin is heavier than air and will sink to low-lying areas.</li> <li>• If released indoors, get out of the building.</li> <li>• If exposed -remove clothing, avoid removing clothing over the head and face, and rapidly wash entire body with soap and water.</li> <li>• Carefully seal contaminated clothing in a plastic bag if possible.</li> <li>• If sarin has been swallowed, do not induce vomiting or give fluids to drink.</li> </ul>
<b>How is exposure treated?</b>	<p>Treatment consists of removing sarin from the body as soon as possible and providing medical care. Antidotes are available for sarin. They are most useful if given as possible after exposure.</p> <p><b>Seek immediate medical attention if exposed!</b></p>