

Cyanide-

***Actions to take if exposed:
Call 911, then --***

If you suspect you or someone you know has ingested or been exposed to cyanide, here is some important information. Cyanide does not always kill. If you take prompt action, you may save the victim's life. Learn the symptoms and follow the steps listed below.

Symptoms

Mild to moderate exposure to cyanide can result in:

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea.
- Difficulty breathing

Severe cyanide poisoning can result in:

- Loss of consciousness
- Inability to breathe
- Convulsions
- Death

If breathing is weak do not use mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-nose ventilation because of the danger of poisoning the rescuer. If you fear you have ingested or been exposed to cyanide, immediately take the following actions:

If you have inhaled cyanide:

- Call 911.
- Remove patient from contaminated area to fresh air if safe to do so.

- Use breathing apparatus if hydrogen cyanide or other volatile nitrile is present.
- If pulse is absent, start cardiac massage.
- If breathing is weak apply artificial respiration with the oxygen resuscitator and mask until medical personnel have arrived.

If you have ingested cyanide:

- Call 911.
- If the patient is still conscious, make him/her vomit.
- Make the patient lie down and keep the patient warm.
- Do not under any circumstances walk the victim around.
- Remove all contaminated clothing; wash the affected areas with soap and lots of water.
- When the ambulance arrives, give 100% oxygen by mask if available;
- Arrange for the urgent transfer of the patient with the Cyanide Emergency Kit (antidotal therapy), to hospital

If cyanide poisoning is caught early enough and the above steps are taken, the victim has a good chance of surviving. Remember: call 911, tell them "cyanide" so they will bring a cyanide treatment kit. Then, remain calm.

[This article, clipped from the newspaper, is inventoried in Evidence Envelope D]

