

For more information...

Telephone:

- The Indiana State Department of Health,
1-317-233-1325
- Indiana Poison Control Center, toll free
1-800-382-9097
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
Atlanta, Georgia, toll free
1-800-311-3435

Internet:

- Indiana State Department of Health
<http://statehealth.in.gov/bioterrorism>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/bt/sarin>

Indiana State Department of Health
2 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Indiana State
Department of Health



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Sarin is a poison

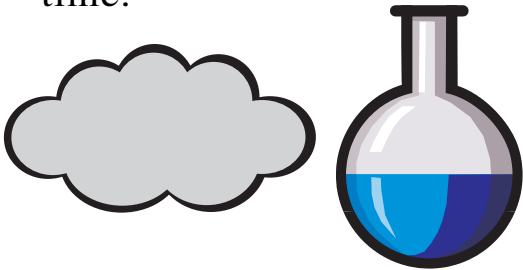


Sarin is man-made.

- 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.

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.

People can be harmed if sarin

- 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.

If people get a large dose of sarin they are likely to

- pass out;
- have convulsions or be paralyzed;
- stop breathing.

It is possible to survive exposure to sarin

Avoiding sarin is the best protection.

- Get away 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 little sarin usually recover.
- People who get a large dose often do not survive.