Appendix L

ToxFAQs for COCs

Appendix L – ToxFAQs for COCs

List of COCs

- 1,2-Diobromoethane
- Aluminum
- Antimony
- Arsenic
- Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate/Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
- Bromodichloromethane
- Cadmium
- Chlorodibromomethane
- Chloroform
- Chromium
- Copper
- Iron
- Lead
- Manganese
- Molybdenum
- Naphthalene
- Radium-226
- Selenium
- Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
- Trichloroethylene (TCE)
- Uranium, Uranium-234, Uranium-235, and Total Uranium
- Vanadium

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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

1,2-DIBROMOETHANE

CAS # 106-93-4

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs September 1995

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about 1,2-dibromoethane. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. This information is important because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

SUMMARY: Exposure to 1,2-dibromoethane can result from drinking groundwater or breathing air that is contaminated. This is most likely to occur in the workplace or from living near a hazardous waste site. 1,2-Dibromoethane can affect the brain, damage skin, damage sperm in males, and even cause death if exposure is very high. This chemical has been found in at least 27 of 1,416 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

What is 1,2-dibromoethane?

(Pronounced 1,2-dī′brō′mō ĕth′ān′)

1,2-Dibromoethane is a manufactured chemical. It also occurs naturally in small amounts in the ocean where it is formed, probably by algae and kelp. It is a colorless liquid with a mild, sweet odor. Other names for 1,2-dibromoethane are ethylene dibromide, EDB, and glycol bromide. Trade names include Bromofume and Dowfume.

1,2-Dibromoethane has been used as a pesticide in soil, and on citrus, vegetable, and grain crops. Most of these uses have been stopped by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1984. Another major use was as an additive in leaded gasoline; however, since leaded gasoline is now banned, it is no longer used for this purpose. Uses today include treatment of logs for termites and beetles, control of moths in beehives, and as a preparation for dyes and waxes.

What happens to 1,2-dibromoethane when it enters the environment?

- It moves into the environment from manufacturing use and leaks at waste sites.
- When released, it quickly moves to air and will evaporate from surface water and soil to the air.
- It dissolves in water and will move through soil into the groundwater.
- Small amounts remain attached to soil particles.
- It breaks down slowly in air (over 4–5 months), more quickly in surface water (2 months), and hardly at all in groundwater.
- It is not expected to build up in plants or animals.

How might I be exposed to 1,2-dibromoethane?

- Drinking contaminated water, especially well water near farms or waste sites.
- Breathing contaminated workplace air.
- Touching it while bathing or swimming in contaminated water.
- Playing in contaminated soils at waste sites.

How can 1,2-dibromoethane affect my health?

Your exposure to 1,2-dibromoethane is generally much, much lower than levels that can harm you. We don't know the effects on people of breathing high levels, but animal studies with short-term exposures to high levels caused depression and collapse, indicating effects on the brain.

Redness and inflammation, including skin blisters and mouth and stomach ulcers, can occur if large amounts are

swallowed. One accidental swallowing caused death in a woman. It is highly unlikely that there would be a risk of death to people from low-level exposure.

Although very little is known about the effects from breathing 1,2-dibromoethane over a long period of time, some male workers had reproductive effects including damage to their sperm. No other long-term effects are known in people.

In rats, death occurred from breathing high levels for a short time. Lower levels caused liver and kidney damage. When rats breathed air or ate food containing 1,2-dibromoethane for short or long periods of time, they were less fertile or had abnormal sperm.

Changes in the brain and behavior were also seen in young rats whose male parents had breathed 1,2-dibromoethane, and birth defects were observed in the young of animals that were exposed while pregnant. 1,2-Dibromoethane is not known to cause birth defects in people.

How likely is 1,2-dibromoethane to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services has determined that 1,2-dibromoethane may reasonably be anticipated to be a carcinogen.

There are no reports of cancer in workers or other people exposed to 1,2-dibromoethane for several years. However, rats and mice that breathed, swallowed, or touched it for long periods had cancer in many organs.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to 1,2-dibromoethane?

There is no reliable medical test to determine whether you have been exposed to 1,2-dibromoethane. Experimental methods exist to measure 1,2-dibromoethane or the bromide ion, a breakdown product of 1,2-dibromoethane, in blood. These tests cannot be done at your doctor's office, but your doctor may be able to send samples to a special laboratory.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a limit of 0.05 parts of 1,2-dibromoethane per billion parts of drinking water (0.05 ppb). EPA requires that spills into the environment of 1,000 pounds or more of 1,2-dibromoethane be reported.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) has limited workers' exposure to an average of 20 parts of 1,2-dibromoethane per million parts of air (ppm) for an 8-hour workday over a 40-hour workweek.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has limited workers' exposure to 1,2-dibromoethane in air to an average of 0.045 ppm for up to a 10-hour workday over a 40-hour workweek.

Glossary

Carcinogen: A substance that can cause cancer.

Long-term: Lasting one year or longer.

ppb: Parts per billion.

ppm: Parts per million.

Short-term: Lasting 14 days or less.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1992. Toxicological profile for 1,2-dibromoethane. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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ALUMINUM

CAS # 7429-90-5

Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine ToxFAQs™ September 2006

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about aluminum. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It is important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Everyone is exposed to low levels of aluminum from food, air, water, and soil. Exposure to high levels of aluminum may result in respiratory and neurological problems. Aluminum (in compounds with other elements) has been found in at least 606 of the 1,678 National Priority List (NPL) sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is aluminum?

Aluminum is the most abundant metal in the earth's crust. It is always found combined with other elements such as oxygen, silicon, and fluorine. Aluminum as the metal is obtained from aluminum-containing minerals. Small amounts of aluminum can be found dissolved in water.

Aluminum metal is light in weight and silvery-white in appearance. Aluminum is used for beverage cans, pots and pans, airplanes, siding and roofing, and foil. Aluminum is often mixed with small amounts of other metals to form aluminum alloys, which are stronger and harder.

Aluminum compounds have many different uses, for example, as alums in water-treatment and alumina in abrasives and furnace linings. They are also found in consumer products such as antacids, astringents, buffered aspirin, food additives, and antiperspirants.

What happens to aluminum when it enters the environment?

❏ Aluminum cannot be destroyed in the environment, it can only change its form.
❏ In the air, aluminum binds to small particles, which can stay suspended for many days.
❏ It can dissolve in lakes, streams, and rivers depending on the quality of the water.
❏ It can be taken up by some plants from soil.
❏ Aluminum is not accumulated to a significant extent in most plants or animals.

How might I be exposed to aluminum?

❏ Virtually all food, water, air, and soil contain some aluminum.
❏ Eating small amounts of aluminum in food.
❏ Breathing higher levels of aluminum dust in workplace air.
❏ Living in areas where the air is dusty, where aluminum is mined or processed into aluminum metal, near certain hazardous waste sites, or where aluminum is naturally high.
❏ Eating substances containing high levels of aluminum (such as antacids) especially when eating or drinking citrus products at the same time.
❏ Children and adults may be exposed to small amounts of aluminum from vaccinations.
❏ Very little enters your body from aluminum cooking utensils.

How can aluminum affect my health?

Exposure to aluminum is usually not harmful, but exposure to high levels can be. Workers who breathe large amounts of aluminum dusts can have lung problems, such as coughing or abnormal chest X-rays. Some workers who breathe aluminum dusts or aluminum fumes have decreased performance in some tests that measure functions of the nervous system.

Some people with kidney disease store a lot of aluminum in their bodies and sometimes develop bone or brain diseases which may be caused by the excess aluminum. Some studies show that people exposed to high levels of aluminum may develop Alzheimers disease, but other studies have not

found this to be true. We do not know for certain whether aluminum causes Alzheimers disease. People may get skin rashes from the aluminum compounds in some underarm antiperspirants.

We do not know if aluminum will affect reproduction in people. Aluminum does not appear to affect fertility in animals.

How likely is aluminum to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the EPA have not evaluated the carcinogenic potential of aluminum in humans. Aluminum has not been shown to cause cancer in animals.

How can aluminum affect children?

Children with kidney problems who were given aluminum in their medical treatments developed bone diseases. We do not know if aluminum will cause birth defects in people. Birth defects have not been seen in animals. Large amounts of aluminum have been shown to be harmful to unborn and developing animals because it can cause delays in skeletal and neurological development. It does not appear that children are more sensitive to aluminum than adults.

There does not appear to be any difference between children and adults in terms of how much aluminum will enter the body, where aluminum can be found in the body, and how fast aluminum will leave the body. Aluminum from the mother can enter her unborn baby through the placenta. Aluminum is found in breast milk, but only a small amount of this aluminum will enter the infants body through breastfeeding.

How can families reduce the risks of exposure to aluminum?

❏ Since aluminum is so common and widespread in the environment, families cannot avoid exposure to aluminum.
❏ Avoid taking large quantities of aluminum-containing antacids and buffered aspirin and take these medications as directed.
❏ Make sure all medications have child-proof caps so children will not accidentally eat them.

Is there a medical test to determine whether I've been exposed to aluminum?

All people have small amounts of aluminum in their bodies. Aluminum can be measured in blood, bones, feces, or urine. Urine and blood aluminum measurements can tell you whether you have been exposed to larger-than-normal amounts of aluminum. Measuring bone aluminum can also indicate exposure to high levels, but this requires a bone biopsy. Tests to measure aluminum levels in the body are not usually available at a doctors office because they require special equipment.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has recommended a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) of 0.050.2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for aluminum in drinking water. The SMCL is not based on levels that will affect humans or animals. It is based on taste, smell, or color.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has determined that the amount of aluminum in dusts that workers breathe should not be more than 15 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m^3) of air.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that aluminum cooking utensils, aluminum foil, antiperspirants, antacids, and other aluminum products are generally safe.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2006. Toxicological Profile for Aluminum (Draft for Public Comment). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Public Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-800-232-4636, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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ANTIMONY
CAS # 7440-36-0

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs September 1995

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about antimony. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. This information is important because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

SUMMARY: Exposure to antimony occurs in the workplace or from skin contact with soil at hazardous waste sites. Breathing high levels of antimony for a long time can irritate the eyes and lungs, and can cause problems with the lungs, heart, and stomach. This chemical has been found in at least 403 of 1,416 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

What is antimony?

(Pronounced ăn′tə-mō′nē)

Antimony is a silvery-white metal that is found in the earth's crust. Antimony ores are mined and then mixed with other metals to form antimony alloys or combined with oxygen to form antimony oxide.

Little antimony is currently mined in the United States. It is brought into this country from other countries for processing. However, there are companies in the United States that produce antimony as a by-product of smelting lead and other metals.

Antimony isn't used alone because it breaks easily, but when mixed into alloys, it is used in lead storage batteries, solder, sheet and pipe metal, bearings, castings, and pewter. Antimony oxide is added to textiles and plastics to prevent them from catching fire. It is also used in paints, ceramics, and fireworks, and as enamels for plastics, metal, and glass.

What happens to antimony when it enters the environment?

- Antimony is released to the environment from natural sources and from industry.
- In the air, antimony is attached to very small particles that may stay in the air for many days.
- Most antimony ends up in soil, where it attaches strongly to particles that contain iron, manganese, or aluminum.
- Antimony is found at low levels in some rivers, lakes, and streams.

How might I be exposed to antimony?

- Because antimony is found naturally in the environment, the general population is exposed to low levels of it every day, primarily in food, drinking water, and air.
- It may be found in air near industries that process or release it, such as smelters, coal-fired plants, and refuse incinerators.
- In polluted areas containing high levels of antimony, it may be found in the air, water, and soil.
- Workers in industries that process it or use antimony ore may be exposed to higher levels.

How can antimony affect my health?

Exposure to antimony at high levels can result in a variety of adverse health effects.

Breathing high levels for a long time can irritate your eyes and lungs and can cause heart and lung problems, stomach pain, diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach ulcers.

In short-term studies, animals that breathed very high levels of antimony died. Animals that breathed high levels

had lung, heart, liver, and kidney damage. In long-term studies, animals that breathed very low levels of antimony had eye irritation, hair loss, lung damage, and heart problems. Problems with fertility were also noted. In animal studies, problems with fertility have been seen when rats breathed very high levels of antimony for a few months.

Ingesting large doses of antimony can cause vomiting. We don't know what other effects may be caused by ingesting it. Long-term animal studies have reported liver damage and blood changes when animals ingested antimony. Antimony can irritate the skin if it is left on it.

Antimony can have beneficial effects when used for medical reasons. It has been used as a medicine to treat people infected with parasites.

How likely is antimony to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have not classified antimony as to its human carcinogenicity.

Lung cancer has been observed in some studies of rats that breathed high levels of antimony. No human studies are available. We don't know whether antimony will cause cancer in people.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to antimony?

Tests are available to measure antimony levels in the body. Antimony can be measured in the urine, feces, and blood for several days after exposure. However, these tests cannot tell you how much antimony you have been exposed to or whether you will experience any health effects. Some tests are not usually performed in most doctors' offices and may require special equipment to conduct them.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA allows 0.006 parts of antimony per million parts of drinking water (0.006 ppm). The EPA requires that discharges or spills into the environment of 5,000 pounds or more of antimony be reported.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set an occupational exposure limit of 0.5 milligrams of antimony per cubic meter of air (0.5 mg/m^3) for an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) currently recommend the same guidelines for the workplace as OSHA.

Glossary

Carcinogenicity: Ability to cause cancer.
CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service.
Ingestion: Taking food or drink into your body.
Long-term: Lasting one year or more.
Milligram (mg): One thousandth of a gram.
Parasite: An organism living in or on another organism.
ppm: Parts per million.
Short-term: Lasting 14 days or less.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1992. Toxicological profile for antimony. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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ARSENIC

CAS # 7440-38-2

Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine ToxFAQs™ August 2007

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about arsenic. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-800-232-4636. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It is important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Exposure to higher than average levels of arsenic occur mostly in the workplace, near hazardous waste sites, or in areas with high natural levels. At high levels, inorganic arsenic can cause death. Exposure to lower levels for a long time can cause a discoloration of the skin and the appearance of small corns or warts. Arsenic has been found in at least 1,149 of the 1,684 National Priority List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is arsenic?

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element widely distributed in the earth's crust. In the environment, arsenic is combined with oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur to form inorganic arsenic compounds. Arsenic in animals and plants combines with carbon and hydrogen to form organic arsenic compounds.

Inorganic arsenic compounds are mainly used to preserve wood. Copper chromated arsenate (CCA) is used to make "pressure-treated" lumber. CCA is no longer used in the U.S. for residential uses; it is still used in industrial applications. Organic arsenic compounds are used as pesticides, primarily on cotton fields and orchards.

What happens to arsenic when it enters the environment?

❑ Arsenic occurs naturally in soil and minerals and may enter the air, water, and land from wind-blown dust and may get into water from runoff and leaching.
❑ Arsenic cannot be destroyed in the environment. It can only change its form.
❑ Rain and snow remove arsenic dust particles from the air.
❑ Many common arsenic compounds can dissolve in water. Most of the arsenic in water will ultimately end up in soil or sediment.
❑ Fish and shellfish can accumulate arsenic; most of this arsenic is in an organic form called arsenobetaine that is much less harmful.

How might I be exposed to arsenic?

❑ Ingesting small amounts present in your food and water or breathing air containing arsenic.
❑ Breathing sawdust or burning smoke from wood treated with arsenic.
❑ Living in areas with unusually high natural levels of arsenic in rock.
❑ Working in a job that involves arsenic production or use, such as copper or lead smelting, wood treating, or pesticide application.

How can arsenic affect my health?

Breathing high levels of inorganic arsenic can give you a sore throat or irritated lungs.

Ingesting very high levels of arsenic can result in death. Exposure to lower levels can cause nausea and vomiting, decreased production of red and white blood cells, abnormal heart rhythm, damage to blood vessels, and a sensation of "pins and needles" in hands and feet.

Ingesting or breathing low levels of inorganic arsenic for a long time can cause a darkening of the skin and the appearance of small "corns" or "warts" on the palms, soles, and torso.

Skin contact with inorganic arsenic may cause redness and swelling.

Almost nothing is known regarding health effects of organic arsenic compounds in humans. Studies in animals show that some simple organic arsenic compounds are less toxic than inorganic forms. Ingestion of methyl and dimethyl compounds can cause diarrhea and damage to the kidneys

How likely is arsenic to cause cancer?

Several studies have shown that ingestion of inorganic arsenic can increase the risk of skin cancer and cancer in the liver, bladder, and lungs. Inhalation of inorganic arsenic can cause increased risk of lung cancer. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the EPA have determined that inorganic arsenic is a known human carcinogen. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that inorganic arsenic is carcinogenic to humans.

How can arsenic affect children?

There is some evidence that long-term exposure to arsenic in children may result in lower IQ scores. There is also some evidence that exposure to arsenic in the womb and early childhood may increase mortality in young adults.

There is some evidence that inhaled or ingested arsenic can injure pregnant women or their unborn babies, although the studies are not definitive. Studies in animals show that large doses of arsenic that cause illness in pregnant females, can also cause low birth weight, fetal malformations, and even fetal death. Arsenic can cross the placenta and has been found in fetal tissues. Arsenic is found at low levels in breast milk.

How can families reduce the risks of exposure to arsenic?

❑ If you use arsenic-treated wood in home projects, you should wear dust masks, gloves, and protective clothing to decrease exposure to sawdust.

❑ If you live in an area with high levels of arsenic in water or soil, you should use cleaner sources of water and limit contact with soil.

❑ If you work in a job that may expose you to arsenic, be aware that you may carry arsenic home on your clothing, skin, hair, or tools. Be sure to shower and change clothes before going home.

Is there a medical test to determine whether I've been exposed to arsenic?

There are tests available to measure arsenic in your blood, urine, hair, and fingernails. The urine test is the most reliable test for arsenic exposure within the last few days. Tests on hair and fingernails can measure exposure to high levels of arsenic over the past 6-12 months. These tests can determine if you have been exposed to above-average levels of arsenic. They cannot predict whether the arsenic levels in your body will affect your health.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set limits on the amount of arsenic that industrial sources can release to the environment and has restricted or cancelled many of the uses of arsenic in pesticides. EPA has set a limit of 0.01 parts per million (ppm) for arsenic in drinking water.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 10 micrograms of arsenic per cubic meter of workplace air (10 $\mu g/m^3$) for 8 hour shifts and 40 hour work weeks.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2007. Toxicological Profile for Arsenic (Update). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Public Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-800-232-4636, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP)
CAS#: 117-81-7

Division of Toxicology **September 2002**

This Public Health Statement is the summary chapter from the Toxicological Profile for Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP). It is one in a series of Public Health Statements about hazardous substances and their health effects. A shorter version, the ToxFAQs™ is also available. This information is important because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737.

This public health statement tells you about di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) and the effects of exposure.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifies the most serious hazardous waste sites in the nation. These sites make up the National Priorities List (NPL) and are the sites targeted for long-term federal cleanup activities. DEHP has been found in at least 737 of the 1,613 current or former NPL sites. However, the total number of NPL sites evaluated for DEHP is not known. As more sites are evaluated, the sites at which DEHP is found may increase. This information is important because exposure to DEHP may harm you and because these sites may be sources of exposure.

When a substance is released from a large area, such as an industrial plant, or from a container, such as a drum or bottle, it enters the environment. This release does not always lead to exposure. You are exposed to a substance only when you come in contact with it. You may be exposed by breathing, eating, or drinking the substance, or by skin contact.

If you are exposed to DEHP, many factors determine whether you'll be harmed. These factors include the dose (how much), the duration (how long), and how you come in contact with it. You must also consider the other chemicals you're exposed to and your age, sex, diet, family traits, lifestyle, and state of health.

1.1 WHAT IS DEHP?

DEHP, which is an abbreviation for di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, is a manufactured chemical that is commonly added to plastics to make them flexible. Other names for this compound are dioctyl phthalate (DOP) and bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (BEHP). (Note that di-n-octyl phthalate, however, is the name for a different chemical.) Trade names used for DEHP include Platinol DOP, Octoil, Silicol 150, Bisoflex 81, and Eviplast 80. DEHP is a colorless liquid with almost no odor. It does not evaporate easily, and little will be present in the air even near sources of production. It dissolves more easily in materials such as gasoline, paint removers, and oils than it does in water. It is present in many plastics, especially vinyl materials, which may contain up to 40% DEHP, although lower levels are common. DEHP is present in plastic products such as wall coverings, tablecloths, floor tiles, furniture upholstery, shower curtains, garden hoses, swimming pool liners, rainwear, baby pants, dolls, some toys, shoes, automobile upholstery and tops, packaging film and sheets, sheathing for wire and cable, medical tubing, and blood storage bags.

1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO DEHP WHEN IT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT?

DEHP can enter the environment through releases from factories that make or use DEHP and from

household items containing it. Over long periods of time, it can move out of plastic materials into the environment. Therefore, DEHP is widespread in the environment; about 291,000 pounds were released in 1997 from industries. It is often found near industrial settings, landfills, and waste disposal sites. A large amount of plastic that contains DEHP is buried at landfill sites. DEHP has been found in groundwater near waste disposal facilities.

When DEHP is released to soil, it usually attaches strongly to the soil and does not move very far away from where it was released. When DEHP is released to water, it dissolves very slowly into underground water or surface waters that contact it. It takes many years before DEHP in buried or discarded materials disappears from the environment. Because DEHP does not evaporate easily, normally very little goes into the air. DEHP in air will bind to dust particles and will be carried back down to earth through gravity and rain or snow. Indoor releases of DEHP to the air from plastic materials, coatings, and flooring in home and work environments, although small, can lead to higher indoor levels than are found in the outdoor air.

DEHP can break down in the presence of other chemicals to produce mono(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (MEHP) and 2-ethylhexanol. Many of the properties of MEHP are like those of DEHP, and therefore its fate in the environment is similar. In the presence of oxygen, DEHP in water and soil can be broken down by microorganisms to carbon dioxide and other simple chemicals. DEHP does not break down very easily when deep in the soil or at the bottom of lakes or rivers where there is little oxygen. It can be found in small amounts in fish and other animals, and some uptake by plants has been reported.

1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO DEHP?

You can be exposed to DEHP through air, water, or skin contact with plastics that have DEHP in them. Food may also contain DEHP, but it is not certain how much.

It is not clear, but it is likely that a little DEHP is transferred by skin contact with plastic clothing or other articles that contain DEHP. Exposure through this route is expected to be low since plastic articles of clothing, like raincoats, do not have direct contact with your skin, and transfer is probably very low even if they do touch you.

You may be exposed to DEHP through drinking water, but it is not known how common this is. If you drink water from a well located near a landfill or waste site, you may be exposed to higher-than-average levels of DEHP.

You can breathe in DEHP that has been released to the environment. The average air level of DEHP is very low, less than 2 parts of DEHP per trillion parts of air (ppt) in cities and industrial areas. DEHP levels in the indoor air in a room with recently installed flooring could be higher than levels in the outdoor air. Workers in factories that make or use DEHP also breathe in higher-than-average levels of this compound.

DEHP also can enter your body during certain medical procedures, and medical exposures are likely to be greater than any environmental exposures. Blood products that are stored in plastic bags and used for transfusions contain from 4.3 to 1,230 parts of DEHP per million parts of blood (ppm). Other plastic medical products also release DEHP. Flexible tubing used to administer fluids or

medication can transfer DEHP to the patient. The plastic tubing used for kidney dialysis frequently contains DEHP and causes DEHP to enter the patient's blood. DEHP also is present in the plastic tubing of respirators and is carried from it to the lungs.

1.4 HOW CAN DEHP ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?

DEHP enters your body when you eat food or drink water containing this material or when you breathe in contaminated air. Small amounts of DEHP might enter your body by skin contact with plastics, but scientists are fairly certain that very little enters this way. Most DEHP that enters your body in food, water, or air is taken up into the blood from the intestines and lungs. DEHP can be introduced directly into your bloodstream if you get a blood transfusion, receive medicines through flexible plastic tubing, or have dialysis treatments.

After DEHP is ingested, most of it is rapidly broken down in the gut to MEHP and 2-ethylhexanol. Breakdown is much slower if DEHP enters your blood directly by way of a transfusion. Although some MEHP is absorbed into the bloodstream from the gut, MEHP is poorly absorbed, so that much of ingested DEHP leaves the body in the feces. The compounds that do enter the blood travel through the bloodstream to your liver, kidneys, testes, and other tissues, and small amounts might become stored in your fat and could possibly be secreted in breast milk. Most of the DEHP, MEHP, and 2-ethylhexanol leaves your body within 24 hours in the urine and feces.

1.5 HOW CAN DEHP AFFECT MY HEALTH?

To protect the public from the harmful effects of toxic chemicals and to find ways to treat people who have been harmed, scientists use many tests.

One way to see if a chemical will hurt people is to learn how the chemical is absorbed, used, and released by the body; for some chemicals, animal testing might be necessary. Animal testing might also be used to identify health effects such as cancer or birth defects. Without laboratory animals, scientists would lose a basic method to get information needed to make wise decisions to protect public health. Scientists have the responsibility to treat research animals with care and compassion. Laws today protect the welfare of research animals, and scientists must comply with strict animal care guidelines.

DEHP, at the levels found in the environment, is not expected to cause adverse health effects in humans. A man who voluntarily swallowed 10 g (approximately 0.4 ounces) of DEHP had stomach irritation and diarrhea. Most of what we know about the health effects of DEHP comes from studies of rats and mice that were given DEHP in their food, or the DEHP was placed in their stomach with the aid of a tube through their mouth. In most of these studies, the amounts of DEHP given to the animals were much higher than the amounts found in the environment. Rats and mice appear to be particularly sensitive to some of the effects of DEHP. Thus, because certain animal models may not apply to humans, it is more difficult to predict some of the health effects of DEHP in humans using information from these studies.

Breathing DEHP does not appear to have serious harmful effects. Studies in rats have shown that DEHP in the air has no effect on lifespan or the ability to reproduce. As mentioned previously, almost no DEHP evaporates into air. You probably will not have any health effects from skin contact with DEHP because it cannot be taken up easily through the skin.

Short-term oral exposures to levels of DEHP much higher than those found in the environment interfered with sperm formation in mice and rats. These effects were reversible, but sexual maturity was delayed when the animals were exposed before puberty. Short-term exposures to low levels of DEHP appeared to have no effect on male fertility.

Studies of long-term exposures in rats and mice have shown that high oral doses of DEHP caused health effects mainly in the liver and testes. These effects were induced by levels of DEHP that are much higher than those received by humans from environmental exposures. Toxicity of DEHP in other tissues is less well characterized, although effects in the thyroid, ovaries, kidneys, and blood have been reported in a few animal studies. The potential for kidney effects is a particular concern for humans because this organ is exposed to DEHP during dialysis and because structural and functional kidney changes have been observed in some exposed rats. Since changes in the kidneys of long-term dialysis patients might be due to the underlying kidney disease, and kidney changes have not been consistently seen in animals exposed to DEHP, the significance of the rat kidney changes is not clear.

Humans absorb and breakdown DEHP in the body differently than rats and mice. Therefore, many of the effects seen in rats and mice after exposures to DEHP might not occur in humans and higher animals like monkeys (primates).

No studies have evaluated the potential for DEHP to cause cancer in humans. Eating high doses of DEHP for a long time resulted in liver cancer in rats and mice.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that DEHP may reasonably be anticipated to be a human carcinogen. EPA has determined that DEHP is a probable human carcinogen. These determinations were based entirely on liver cancer in rats and mice. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has recently changed its classification for DEHP from "possibly carcinogenic to humans" to "cannot be classified as to its carcinogenicity to humans," because of the differences in how the livers of humans and primates respond to DEHP as compared with the livers of rats and mice.

1.6 HOW CAN DEHP AFFECT CHILDREN?

This section discusses potential health effects from exposures during the period from conception to maturity at 18 years of age in humans.

Children can be exposed to DEHP if they eat food or drink water contaminated with DEHP or if they breathe in the chemical from ambient or indoor air. Small children can also be exposed by sucking on or skin contact with plastic objects (toys) and pacifiers that contain DEHP, as well as by ingestion of breast milk containing DEHP. Children also can be exposed to DEHP if they undergo certain medical procedures that require the use of flexible tubing such as that used to administer fluids or

medication to the patient. However, there is no conclusive evidence of adverse health effects in children exposed to DEHP in any of these ways.

In studies of pregnant mice and rats orally exposed to large doses of DEHP, effects on the development of the fetus, including birth defects and even fetal death, were observed. Researchers observed alterations in the structure of bones and of parts of the brain, and in the liver, kidney, and testes of the young animals. These harmful effects suggested that DEHP or some of its breakdown products passed across the placenta and reached the fetus. Therefore, humans exposed to sufficiently high levels of DEHP during pregnancy could possibly have babies with low birth weights and/or skeletal or nervous system developmental problems, but this is not certain. Studies in animals also have shown that DEHP or some of its breakdown products can pass from mother to babies via the breast milk and alter the development of the young animals. This could also happen in humans because DEHP has been detected in human milk.

We do not know whether children differ from adults in their susceptibility to health effects from DEHP. However, studies suggest that young male animals are more susceptible than older ones to the adverse effects of DEHP on the sex organs.

1.7 HOW CAN FAMILIES REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO DEHP?

If your doctor finds that you have been exposed to significant amounts of DEHP, ask whether your children might also be exposed. Your doctor might need to ask your state health department to investigate. As discussed in Section 1.8, tests for DEHP only provide a measure of recent exposure to the chemical.

DEHP is used in many products that are made from plastic, but especially a plastic known as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or vinyl. When it is found in products, DEHP is at a higher level when that product is new. Less is found in products that are old. Items made from PVC include many plastic toys, some plastic furniture, car and furniture upholstery, shower curtains, some garden hoses, tablecloths, and some flooring (vinyl flooring). Not all PVC products contain DEHP, but it is found in many products. Because DEHP might be in some toys, there is a concern that children chewing on such toys might be exposed. One study has shown that DEHP can go from plastics to laboratory-simulated saliva.

1.8 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO DEHP?

The most specific test that can be used to determine if you have been exposed to DEHP is the measurement of MEHP and other breakdown chemicals in your urine or blood. This test only provides a measure of recent exposure, since DEHP is rapidly broken down into other substances and excreted from your body. You also could be tested for another breakdown product (phthalic acid), but this test would not be specific for DEHP. One or 2 days after exposure, your feces could be tested for the presence of DEHP metabolites. These tests are not routinely available through health care providers.

1.9 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?

The federal government develops regulations and recommendations to protect public health. Regulations can be enforced by law. Federal agencies that develop regulations for toxic substances include the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Recommendations provide valuable guidelines to protect public health but cannot be enforced by law. Federal organizations that develop recommendations for toxic substances include the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Regulations and recommendations can be expressed in not-to-exceed levels in air, water, soil, or food that are usually based on levels that affect animals; then they are adjusted to help protect people. Sometimes these not-to-exceed levels differ among federal organizations because of different exposure times (an 8-hour workday or a 24-hour day), the use of different animal studies, or other factors.

Recommendations and regulations are also periodically updated as more information becomes available. For the most current information, check with the federal agency or organization that provides it. Some regulations and recommendations for DEHP include the following:

Several federal guidelines regulate DEHP in consumer products, drinking water, and the work environment. FDA limits the types of food packaging materials that can contain DEHP. EPA limits the amount of DEHP in drinking water to 6 parts of DEHP per billion parts of water (6 ppb). EPA requires that spills of 100 pounds or more of DEHP to the environment be reported to the agency. The average concentration of DEHP in workplace air is limited by OSHA to 5 milligrams of DEHP per cubic meter (mg/m^3) of air over an 8-hour workday. The short-term (15-minute) exposure limit is 10 mg/m^3. The guidelines established by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) for the workplace are the same as the OSHA regulations.

1.10 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any more questions or concerns, please contact your community or state health or environmental quality department or:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Toxicology
1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32
Atlanta, GA 30333

Information line and technical assistance:

Phone: 888-422-8737
FAX: (770)-488-4178

ATSDR can also tell you the location of occupational and environmental health clinics. These clinics specialize in recognizing, evaluating, and treating illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances.

PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP)
CAS#: 117-81-7

Division of Toxicology **September 2002**

To order toxicological profiles, contact:

National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Phone: 800-553-6847 or 703-605-6000

Reference

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2002. Toxicological profile for di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

BROMODICHLOROMETHANE

CAS # 75-27-4

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs July 1999

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about bromodichloromethane. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Most bromodichloromethane is formed as a by-product when chlorine is added to water-supply systems. Bromodichloromethane is not known to cause adverse health effects in people, but animal studies show that high concentrations can damage the liver and kidneys and affect the brain. Bromodichloromethane has been found at 5 of the 1,518 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is bromodichloromethane?

(Pronounced brō′mō dī-klôr′ō měth′ān′)

Bromodichloromethane is a colorless, nonflammable liquid. Small amounts are formed naturally by algae in the oceans. Some of it will dissolve in water, but it readily evaporates into air.

Only small quantities of bromodichloromethane are produced in the United States. The small quantities that are produced are used in laboratories or to make other chemicals. However, most bromodichloromethane is formed as a by-product when chlorine is added to drinking water to kill bacteria.

What happens to bromodichloromethane when it enters the environment?

- Bromodichloromethane released to air is slowly broken down by reactions with other chemicals and sunlight or it can be removed by rain.
- In water, it will evaporate to the air and/or be broken down slowly by bacteria.
- When released to soil, most will evaporate to the air but some of it will be broken down by bacteria.
- Some bromodichloromethane may filter into the groundwater.
- Bromodichloromethane does not build up in the food chain.

How might I be exposed to bromodichloromethane?

- The most likely way people are exposed to bromodichloromethane is by drinking chlorinated water.
- You may breathe vapors released from chlorinated water in a swimming pool or in the home (cooking, washing dishes, bathing, etc.).
- Some bromodichloromethane may enter your body directly through your skin when bathing or swimming.
- People who live near a waste site containing bromodichloromethane could be exposed by drinking contaminated groundwater or breathing vapors released to the air.
- People who work at or live near a laboratory or factory that makes or uses this chemical could be exposed by breathing bromodichloromethane in the air.

ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html

How can bromodichloromethane affect my health?

No studies are available regarding health effects in people exposed to bromodichloromethane.

Animal studies indicate that the liver, kidney, and central nervous system are affected by exposure to bromodichloromethane. The effects of high doses on the central nervous system include sleepiness and incoordination. Longer exposure to lower doses causes damage to the liver and kidneys. There is some evidence from animal studies that bromodichloromethane may cause birth defects at doses high enough to make the mother sick. It is not known if lower doses would cause birth defects.

How likely is bromodichloromethane to cause cancer?

There is evidence that eating or drinking bromodichloromethane causes liver, kidney, and intestinal cancer in rats and mice. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that bromodichloromethane is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to bromodichloromethane?

Methods are available to measure low levels of bromodichloromethane in human blood, breath, urine, and fat, but not enough information is available to use such tests to predict if any health effects might occur. Because special equipment is needed, these tests are not usually done in the doctor's office.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.1 parts per million (ppm) for the combination of bromodichloromethane and a group of similar compounds (called trihalomethanes) that occur in chlorinated water. The EPA recommends that levels of halomethanes in lakes and streams should be limited to 0.19 ppm to prevent possible health effects from drinking water or eating fish contaminated with this group of chemicals.

Any release to the environment greater than 5,000 pounds of bromodichloromethane must be reported to the EPA.

The federal recommendations have been updated as of July 1999.

Glossary

Carcinogen: A substance that can cause cancer.
CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service.
Evaporate: To change into a vapor or a gas.
National Priorities List: A list of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites.
ppm: Parts per million.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1989. Toxicological profile for bromodichloromethane. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

CADMIUM
CAS # 7440-43-9

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs June 1999

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about cadmium. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Exposure to cadmium happens mostly in the workplace where cadmium products are made. The general population is exposed from breathing cigarette smoke or eating cadmium contaminated foods. Cadmium damages the lungs, can cause kidney disease, and may irritate the digestive tract. This substance has been found in at least 776 of the 1,467 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is cadmium?

(Pronounced kăd′mē-əm)

Cadmium is a natural element in the earth's crust. It is usually found as a mineral combined with other elements such as oxygen (cadmium oxide), chlorine (cadmium chloride), or sulfur (cadmium sulfate, cadmium sulfide).

All soils and rocks, including coal and mineral fertilizers, contain some cadmium. Most cadmium used in the United States is extracted during the production of other metals like zinc, lead, and copper. Cadmium does not corrode easily and has many uses, including batteries, pigments, metal coatings, and plastics.

What happens to cadmium when it enters the environment?

- Cadmium enters air from mining, industry, and burning coal and household wastes.
- Cadmium particles in air can travel long distances before falling to the ground or water.
- It enters water and soil from waste disposal and spills or leaks at hazardous waste sites.
- It binds strongly to soil particles.
- Some cadmium dissolves in water.
- It doesn't break down in the environment, but can change forms.
- Fish, plants, and animals take up cadmium from the environment.
- Cadmium stays in the body a very long time and can build up from many years of exposure to low levels.

How might I be exposed to cadmium?

- Breathing contaminated workplace air (battery manufacturing, metal soldering or welding).
- Eating foods containing it; low levels in all foods (highest in shellfish, liver, and kidney meats).
- Breathing cadmium in cigarette smoke (doubles the average daily intake).
- Drinking contaminated water.
- Breathing contaminated air near the burning of fossil fuels or municipal waste.

How can cadmium affect my health?

Breathing high levels of cadmium severely damages the lungs and can cause death. Eating food or drinking water with very high levels severely irritates the stomach, leading to vomiting and diarrhea. Long-term exposure to lower levels of cadmium in air, food, or water leads to a buildup of cadmium in the kidneys and possible kidney disease.

Other long-term effects are lung damage and fragile bones. Animals given cadmium in food or water had high blood pressure, iron-poor blood, liver disease, and nerve or brain damage.

We don't know if humans get any of these diseases from eating or drinking cadmium. Skin contact with cadmium is not known to cause health effects in humans or animals.

How likely is cadmium to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that cadmium and cadmium compounds may reasonably be anticipated to be carcinogens.

How can cadmium affect children?

The health effects in children are expected to be similar to those in adults (kidney, lung and intestinal damage).

We don't know if cadmium causes birth defects in people. Cadmium does not readily go from a pregnant woman's body into the developing child, but some portion can cross the placenta. It can also be found in breast milk. The babies of animals exposed to high levels of cadmium during pregnancy had changes in behavior and learning ability. Cadmium may also affect birth weight and the skeleton in developing animals.

Animal studies also indicate that more cadmium is absorbed into the body if the diet is low in calcium, protein, or iron, or is high in fat. A few studies show that younger animals absorb more cadmium and are more likely to lose bone and bone strength than adults.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to cadmium?

In the home, store substances that contain cadmium safely, and keep nickel-cadmium batteries out of reach of young children. If you work with cadmium, use all safety precautions to avoid carrying cadmium-containing dust home from work on your clothing, skin, hair, or tools.

A balanced diet can reduce the amount of cadmium taken into the body from food and drink.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to cadmium?

Tests are available in some medical laboratories that measure cadmium in blood, urine, hair, or nails. Blood levels show recent exposure to cadmium, and urine levels show both recent and earlier exposure. The reliability of tests for cadmium levels in hair or nails is unknown.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a limit of 5 parts of cadmium per billion parts of drinking water (5 ppb). EPA doesn't allow cadmium in pesticides.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) limits the amount of cadmium in food colors to 15 parts per million (15 ppm).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) limits workplace air to 100 micrograms cadmium per cubic meter (100 $\mu g/m^3$) as cadmium fumes and 200 µg cadmium/m^3 as cadmium dust.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1999. Toxicological profile for cadmium. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

BROMOFORM AND DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE

CAS # 75-25-2 and 124-48-1

Division of Toxicology ToxFAQs™ August 2005

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about bromoform and dibromochloromethane. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It is important you understand this information because these substances may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Bromoform and dibromochloromethane are formed as by-products when chlorine is added to water supply systems. High levels of bromoform or dibromochloromethane can damage the liver and kidneys and affect the brain. Bromoform has been found in at least 140 of the 1,662 National Priority List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Dibromochloromethane has been found in at least 174 NPL sites.

What are bromoform and dibromochloromethane?

Bromoform and dibromochloromethane are colorless to yellow, heavy, nonflammable, liquids with a sweet odor. Small amounts are formed naturally by plants in the ocean. They are somewhat soluble in water and readily evaporate into the air. Most of the bromoform and dibromochloromethane that enters the environment is formed as byproducts when chlorine is added to drinking water to kill bacteria.

Only small quantities of bromoform and dibromochloromethane currently are produced in the United States. These chemicals were used in the past as solvents and flame retardants, or to make other chemicals, but now they are used mainly as laboratory reagents.

What happens to bromoform and dibromochloromethane when they enter the environment?

❏ When released to air, bromoform and dibromochloromethane are slowly broken down by reactions with other chemicals and sunlight or can be removed by rain.
❏ In water, these chemicals will evaporate to the air and/or be broken down slowly by bacteria.
❏ When released to soil, most will evaporate to the air, some will be broken down by bacteria, and some may filter into the groundwater.
❏ Bromoform and dibromomethane do not build up in the food chain.

How might I be exposed to bromoform and dibromochloromethane?

❏ The most likely way people are exposed to bromoform and dibromochloromethane is by drinking chlorinated water.
❏ You may breathe vapors released from chlorinated water in a swimming pool or during showering and bathing.
❏ Very small amounts of bromoform and dibromochloromethane may enter your body directly through your skin while bathing or swimming.
❏ People that live near a waste site containing bromoform or dibromochloromethane could be exposed by drinking contaminated groundwater or breathing vapors released to the air.
❏ Exposure could occur by breathing bromoform and dibromochloromethane in the air in or near a laboratory or factory that makes or uses these chemicals; however, this is unlikely for most people.

How can bromoform and dibromochloromethane affect my health?

Eating or breathing a large amount of bromoform slows down the normal brain activities and causes sleepiness; this tends to go away within a day. Exposure to very high amounts may cause unconsciousness and even death. No studies are available about health effects in people exposed to dibromochloromethane.

Animals exposed to high amounts of bromoform or dibromochloromethane developed liver and kidney injuries. Exposure to low levels of bromoform or

dibromochloromethane do not appear to seriously affect the brain, liver, or kidneys. We do not know if bromoform or dibromochloromethane affect fertility in humans, but studies in animals suggest that the risk of doing so is low.

How likely are bromoform and dibromochloromethane to cause cancer?

There is no conclusive evidence that bromoform or dibromochloromethane cause cancer in humans because no cancer studies of humans exposed exclusively to these chemicals are available. Studies in animals indicate that long-term intake of either bromoform or dibromochloromethane can cause liver and kidney cancer.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded that bromoform and dibromochloromethane are not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity. The EPA classified bromoform as a probable human carcinogen and dibromochloromethane as a possible human carcinogen.

How can bromoform and dibromochloromethane affect children?

The only information regarding effects of bromoform on the health of children is that from the early 1900s when this chemical was used as a sedative to treat children with whooping cough. In some cases of overdosing with extremely high doses, children appeared drowsy, then lifeless, just before dying. We do not know whether children are more susceptible to the effects of bromoform and dibromochloromethane than adults.

How can families reduce the risks of exposure to bromoform and dibromochloromethane?

❑ Families can reduce their exposure to bromoform and dibromochloromethane from tap water by installing commercially available filter systems at home.

❑ While bromoform is no longer used as a medicine, keeping children away from, or supervising children with, chemicals brought into the home, will reduce the potential for accidental exposures.

❑ Families can reduce their exposure by taking shorter baths or showers in water in which these chemicals are present and opening bathroom windows or using ceiling ventilation fans whenever possible.

Is there a medical test to determine whether I've been exposed to bromoform and dibromochloromethane?

Tests are available to measure levels of these chemicals and their breakdown products in samples of your blood, breath, or fat. These tests are not routinely available in a doctor's office because they require special equipment. Because bromoform and dibromochloromethane are eliminated from the body fairly quickly, these tests are only effective in detecting recent exposures (within 1 or 2 days at the most).

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA recommends that drinking water contain no more than 0.7 parts per million (0.7 ppm) of bromoform and 0.7 ppm of dibromochloromethane.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) set a limit of 0.5 ppm for the level of bromoform in workplace air during an 8-hour workday, 40-hour work week. Because dibromochloromethane has such a limited use, OSHA has not set limits of exposure for workplace air.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2005. Toxicological Profile for Bromoform and Dibromochloromethane (Update). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Public Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

CHLOROFORM
CAS # 67-66-3

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs September 1997

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about chloroform. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Exposure to chloroform can occur when breathing contaminated air or when drinking or touching the substance or water containing it. Breathing chloroform can cause dizziness, fatigue, and headaches. Breathing chloroform or ingesting chloroform over long periods of time may damage your liver and kidneys. It can cause sores if large amounts touch your skin. This substance has been found in at least 717 of the 1,430 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is chloroform?
(Pronounced klôr′ə-fôrm′)

Chloroform is a colorless liquid with a pleasant, nonirritating odor and a slightly sweet taste. It will burn only when it reaches very high temperatures.

In the past, chloroform was used as an inhaled anesthetic during surgery, but it isn't used that way today. Today, chloroform is used to make other chemicals and can also be formed in small amounts when chlorine is added to water.

Other names for chloroform are trichloromethane and methyl trichloride.

What happens to chloroform when it enters the environment?

- Chloroform evaporates easily into the air.
- Most of the chloroform in air breaks down eventually, but it is a slow process.
- The breakdown products in air include phosgene and hydrogen chloride, which are both toxic.
- It doesn't stick to soil very well and can travel through soil to groundwater.
- Chloroform dissolves easily in water and some of it may break down to other chemicals.
- Chloroform lasts a long time in groundwater.
- Chloroform doesn't appear to build up in great amounts in plants and animals.

How might I be exposed to chloroform?

- Drinking water or beverages made using water containing chloroform.
- Breathing indoor or outdoor air containing it, especially in the workplace.
- Eating food that contains it.
- Skin contact with chloroform or water that contains it, such as in swimming pools.

How can chloroform affect my health?

Breathing about 900 parts of chloroform per million parts air (900 ppm) for a short time can cause dizziness, fatigue, and headache. Breathing air, eating food, or drinking water containing high levels of chloroform for long periods of time may damage your liver and kidneys. Large amounts of chloroform can cause sores when chloroform touches your skin.

It isn't known whether chloroform causes reproductive effects or birth defects in people.

Animal studies have shown that miscarriages occurred in rats and mice that breathed air containing 30 to 300 ppm chloroform during pregnancy and also in rats that ate chloroform during pregnancy. Offspring of rats and mice that breathed chloroform during pregnancy had birth defects. Abnormal sperm were found in mice that breathed air containing 400 ppm chloroform for a few days.

How likely is chloroform to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that chloroform may reasonably be anticipated to be a carcinogen.

Rats and mice that ate food or drank water with chloroform developed cancer of the liver and kidneys.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to chloroform?

Although the amounts of chloroform in the air that you exhale and in blood, urine, and body tissues can be measured, there is no reliable test to determine how much chloroform you have been exposed to or whether you will experience any harmful effects.

The measurement of chloroform in body fluids and tissues may help to determine if you have come into contact with large amounts of chloroform, but these tests are useful for only a short time after you are exposed. Chloroform in your body might also indicate that you have come into contact with other chemicals.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA drinking water limit for total trihalomethanes, a class of chemicals that includes chloroform, is 100 micrograms per liter of water (100 μg/L).

The EPA requires that spills or accidental releases of 10 pounds or more of chloroform into the environment be reported to the EPA.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set the maximum allowable concentration of chloroform in workroom air during an 8-hour workday in a 40-hour workweek at 50 ppm.

Glossary

Carcinogenicity: A substance with the ability to cause cancer.

CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service.

Ingesting: Taking food or drink into your body.

Microgram (μg): One millionth of a gram.

Miscarriage: Pregnancy loss.

ppm: Parts per million.

References

This ToxFAQs information is taken from the 1997 Toxicological Profile for Chloroform (update) produced by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service in Atlanta, GA.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone:1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

CADMIUM
CAS # 7440-43-9

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs June 1999

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about cadmium. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Exposure to cadmium happens mostly in the workplace where cadmium products are made. The general population is exposed from breathing cigarette smoke or eating cadmium contaminated foods. Cadmium damages the lungs, can cause kidney disease, and may irritate the digestive tract. This substance has been found in at least 776 of the 1,467 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is cadmium?

(Pronounced kăd′mē-əm)

Cadmium is a natural element in the earth's crust. It is usually found as a mineral combined with other elements such as oxygen (cadmium oxide), chlorine (cadmium chloride), or sulfur (cadmium sulfate, cadmium sulfide).

All soils and rocks, including coal and mineral fertilizers, contain some cadmium. Most cadmium used in the United States is extracted during the production of other metals like zinc, lead, and copper. Cadmium does not corrode easily and has many uses, including batteries, pigments, metal coatings, and plastics.

What happens to cadmium when it enters the environment?

- Cadmium enters air from mining, industry, and burning coal and household wastes.
- Cadmium particles in air can travel long distances before falling to the ground or water.
- It enters water and soil from waste disposal and spills or leaks at hazardous waste sites.
- It binds strongly to soil particles.
- Some cadmium dissolves in water.
- It doesn't break down in the environment, but can change forms.
- Fish, plants, and animals take up cadmium from the environment.
- Cadmium stays in the body a very long time and can build up from many years of exposure to low levels.

How might I be exposed to cadmium?

- Breathing contaminated workplace air (battery manufacturing, metal soldering or welding).
- Eating foods containing it; low levels in all foods (highest in shellfish, liver, and kidney meats).
- Breathing cadmium in cigarette smoke (doubles the average daily intake).
- Drinking contaminated water.
- Breathing contaminated air near the burning of fossil fuels or municipal waste.

How can cadmium affect my health?

Breathing high levels of cadmium severely damages the lungs and can cause death. Eating food or drinking water with very high levels severely irritates the stomach, leading to vomiting and diarrhea. Long-term exposure to lower levels of cadmium in air, food, or water leads to a buildup of cadmium in the kidneys and possible kidney disease.

Other long-term effects are lung damage and fragile bones. Animals given cadmium in food or water had high blood pressure, iron-poor blood, liver disease, and nerve or brain damage.

We don't know if humans get any of these diseases from eating or drinking cadmium. Skin contact with cadmium is not known to cause health effects in humans or animals.

How likely is cadmium to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that cadmium and cadmium compounds may reasonably be anticipated to be carcinogens.

How can cadmium affect children?

The health effects in children are expected to be similar to those in adults (kidney, lung and intestinal damage).

We don't know if cadmium causes birth defects in people. Cadmium does not readily go from a pregnant woman's body into the developing child, but some portion can cross the placenta. It can also be found in breast milk. The babies of animals exposed to high levels of cadmium during pregnancy had changes in behavior and learning ability. Cadmium may also affect birth weight and the skeleton in developing animals.

Animal studies also indicate that more cadmium is absorbed into the body if the diet is low in calcium, protein, or iron, or is high in fat. A few studies show that younger animals absorb more cadmium and are more likely to lose bone and bone strength than adults.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to cadmium?

In the home, store substances that contain cadmium safely, and keep nickel-cadmium batteries out of reach of young children. If you work with cadmium, use all safety precautions to avoid carrying cadmium-containing dust home from work on your clothing, skin, hair, or tools.

A balanced diet can reduce the amount of cadmium taken into the body from food and drink.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to cadmium?

Tests are available in some medical laboratories that measure cadmium in blood, urine, hair, or nails. Blood levels show recent exposure to cadmium, and urine levels show both recent and earlier exposure. The reliability of tests for cadmium levels in hair or nails is unknown.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a limit of 5 parts of cadmium per billion parts of drinking water (5 ppb). EPA doesn't allow cadmium in pesticides.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) limits the amount of cadmium in food colors to 15 parts per million (15 ppm).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) limits workplace air to 100 micrograms cadmium per cubic meter (100 $\mu g/m^3$) as cadmium fumes and 200 µg cadmium/m^3 as cadmium dust.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1999. Toxicological profile for cadmium. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

COPPER

CAS # 7440-50-8

Division of Toxicology ToxFAQs™ September 2004

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about copper. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It is important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Copper is a metal that occurs naturally in the environment, and also in plants and animals. Low levels of copper are essential for maintaining good health. High levels can cause harmful effects such as irritation of the nose, mouth and eyes, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, and even death. Copper has been found in at least 906 of the 1,647 National Priority Sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is copper?

Copper is a metal that occurs naturally throughout the environment, in rocks, soil, water, and air. Copper is an essential element in plants and animals (including humans), which means it is necessary for us to live. Therefore, plants and animals must absorb some copper from eating, drinking, and breathing.

Copper is used to make many different kinds of products like wire, plumbing pipes, and sheet metal. U.S. pennies made before 1982 are made of copper, while those made after 1982 are only coated with copper. Copper is also combined with other metals to make brass and bronze pipes and faucets.

Copper compounds are commonly used in agriculture to treat plant diseases like mildew, for water treatment and, as preservatives for wood, leather, and fabrics.

What happens to copper when it enters the environment?

❏ Copper is released into the environment by mining, farming, and manufacturing operations and through waste water releases into rivers and lakes. Copper is also released from natural sources, like volcanoes, windblown dusts, decaying vegetation, and forest fires.
❏ Copper released into the environment usually attaches to particles made of organic matter, clay, soil, or sand.
❏ Copper does not break down in the environment. Copper compounds can break down and release free copper into the air, water, and foods.

How might I be exposed to copper?

❏ You may be exposed to copper from breathing air, drinking water, eating foods, or having skin contact with copper, particulates attached to copper, or copper-containing compounds.
❏ Drinking water may have high levels of copper if your house has copper pipes and acidic water.
❏ Lakes and rivers that have been treated with copper compounds to control algae, or that receive cooling water from power plants, can have high levels of copper. Soils can also contain high levels of copper, especially if they are near copper smelting plants.
❏ You may be exposed to copper by ingesting copper-containing fungicides, or if you live near a copper mine or where copper is processed into bronze or brass.
❏ You may be exposed to copper if you work in copper mines or if you grind metals containing copper.

How can copper affect my health?

Everyone must absorb small amounts of copper every day because copper is essential for good health. High levels of copper can be harmful. Breathing high levels of copper can cause irritation of your nose and throat. Ingesting high levels of copper can cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Very-high doses of copper can cause damage to your liver and kidneys, and can even cause death.

How likely is copper to cause cancer?

We do not know whether copper can cause cancer in humans. The EPA has determined that copper is not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity.

How can copper affect children?

Exposure to high levels of copper will result in the same type of effects in children and adults. We do not know if these effects would occur at the same dose level in children and adults. Studies in animals suggest that the young children may have more severe effects than adults, but we don't know if this would also be true in humans. There is a very small percentage of infants and children who are unusually sensitive to copper.

We do not know if copper can cause birth defects or other developmental effects in humans. Studies in animals suggest that high levels of copper may cause a decrease in fetal growth.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to copper?

The most likely place to be exposed to copper is through drinking water, especially if your water is corrosive and you have copper pipes in your house. The best way to lower the level of copper in your drinking water is to let the water run for at least 15 seconds first thing in the morning before drinking or using it. This reduces the levels of copper in tap water dramatically.

If you work with copper, wear the necessary protective clothing and equipment, and always follow safety procedures. Shower and change your clothes before going home each day.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to copper?

Copper is found throughout the body; in hair, nails, blood, urine, and other tissues. High levels of copper in these samples can show that you have been exposed to higher-than normal levels of copper. These tests cannot tell whether you will experience harmful effects. Tests to measure copper levels in the body are not usually available at a doctor's office because they require special equipment, but the doctor can send samples to a specialty laboratory.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA requires that levels of copper in drinking water be less than 1.3 mg of copper per one liter of drinking water (1.3 mg/L).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has set the recommended daily allowance for copper at 900 micrograms of copper per day (µg/day) for people older than eight years old.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that levels of copper in the air in workplaces not exceed 0.1 mg of copper fumes per cubic meter of air (0.1 mg/m^3) and 1.0 mg/m^3 for copper dusts.

Reference

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2004. Toxicological Profile for Copper. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

Iron

What is iron?
Iron (CAS 7439-89-6) is the second most abundant metal and the fourth most abundant element in the earth's crust, comprising 5.1% (by weight) of the earth's crust. Iron is a ubiquitous essential element required for human survival. Among the critical functions of iron is its role in the process of oxygen transport and oxidative metabolism. Iron occurs as a natural constituent of all foods of plant and animal origin, and may also be present in drinking water. Iron is also added to some foods to provide nutritional supplementation.

What happens to iron when it enters the environment?
The production and use of iron compounds throughout many industries may result in the release of these compounds into the environment. The mining and processing of iron ores may result in additional release of iron compounds. Airborne emissions of iron compounds may result from activities of the iron and steel industries. The behavior and mobility of iron in the environment depends both on its chemical form and on environmental conditions. Iron in soil or water will not volatilize under typical environmental conditions. Iron is taken up by plants and animals.

How might I be exposed to iron?
Everyone is exposed to iron in food, water and air. People in certain occupations may be exposed to higher iron levels through inhalation and dermal contact with these compounds at workplaces where iron compounds are produced or used.

How can iron enter and leave my body?

Uptake into the body:
The chemical form of iron is important in assessing its biological availability. In addition, the body regulates its iron levels by decreasing absorption when existing iron levels are high or by increasing absorption when levels are low.

Elimination from the body:
Iron within the body is efficiently recycled. Most iron elimination occurs through the GI tract with some additional iron elimination occurring through urine or skin defoliation.

Bioconcentration potential:
The body store of iron is divided between essential iron-containing compounds and excess iron, which is held in storage in a variety of body tissues.

How can iron affect my health and the environment?
Iron is nontoxic to humans at typical environmental concentrations. Acute toxicity of iron ingested from normal dietary sources has not been reported. However, there are numerous reports of acute toxicity resulting from the ingestion of large overdoses of medicinal iron, especially in small children. Inhalation of airborne iron can cause irritation to the respiratory and GI tracts. EPA has not published a cancer classification for iron compounds and evidence does not support the carcinogenicity of this compound. Iron deficiency in the

diet is a more common health concern. Recommended iron consumption ranges from approximately 10 to 30 mg per day with greater doses recommended for lactating women.

References

Toxnet (HSDB):
http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/search/f?./temp/~YmEL8P:1

International Program on Chemical Safety (IPCS).
http://www.inchem.org/documents/jecfa/jecmono/v18je18.htm

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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

LEAD

CAS # 7439-92-1

Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine ToxFAQs™ August 2007

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about lead. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-800-232-4636. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It is important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Exposure to lead can happen from breathing workplace air or dust, eating contaminated foods, or drinking contaminated water. Children can be exposed from eating lead-based paint chips or playing in contaminated soil. Lead can damage the nervous system, kidneys, and reproductive system. Lead has been found in at least 1,272 of the 1,684 National Priority List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of it comes from human activities including burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing.

Lead has many different uses. It is used in the production of batteries, ammunition, metal products (solder and pipes), and devices to shield X-rays. Because of health concerns, lead from paints and ceramic products, caulking, and pipe solder has been dramatically reduced in recent years. The use of lead as an additive to gasoline was banned in 1996 in the United States.

What happens to lead when it enters the environment?

❏ Lead itself does not break down, but lead compounds are changed by sunlight, air, and water.

❏ When lead is released to the air, it may travel long distances before settling to the ground.

❏ Once lead falls onto soil, it usually sticks to soil particles.

❏ Movement of lead from soil into groundwater will depend on the type of lead compound and the characteristics of the soil.

How might I be exposed to lead?

❏ Eating food or drinking water that contains lead. Water pipes in some older homes may contain lead solder. Lead can leach out into the water.

❏ Spending time in areas where lead-based paints have been used and are deteriorating. Deteriorating lead paint can contribute to lead dust.

❏ Working in a job where lead is used or engaging in certain hobbies in which lead is used, such as making stained glass.

❏ Using health-care products or folk remedies that contain lead.

How can lead affect my health?

The effects of lead are the same whether it enters the body through breathing or swallowing. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. The main target for lead toxicity is the nervous system, both in adults and children. Long-term exposure of adults can result in decreased performance in some tests that measure functions of the nervous system. It may also cause weakness in fingers, wrists, or ankles. Lead exposure also causes small increases in blood pressure, particularly in middle-aged and older people and can cause anemia. Exposure to high lead levels can severely damage the brain and kidneys in adults or children and ultimately cause death. In pregnant women, high levels of exposure to lead may cause miscarriage. High-level exposure in men can damage the organs responsible for sperm production.

How likely is lead to cause cancer?

We have no conclusive proof that lead causes cancer in humans. Kidney tumors have developed in rats and mice that had been given large doses of some kind of lead compounds. The Department of Health and Human Services

(DHHS) has determined that lead and lead compounds are reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens and the EPA has determined that lead is a probable human carcinogen. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that inorganic lead is probably carcinogenic to humans and that there is insufficient information to determine whether organic lead compounds will cause cancer in humans.

How can lead affect children?

Small children can be exposed by eating lead-based paint chips, chewing on objects painted with lead-based paint, or swallowing house dust or soil that contains lead.

Children are more vulnerable to lead poisoning than adults. A child who swallows large amounts of lead may develop blood anemia, severe stomachache, muscle weakness, and brain damage. If a child swallows smaller amounts of lead, much less severe effects on blood and brain function may occur. Even at much lower levels of exposure, lead can affect a child's mental and physical growth.

Exposure to lead is more dangerous for young and unborn children. Unborn children can be exposed to lead through their mothers. Harmful effects include premature births, smaller babies, decreased mental ability in the infant, learning difficulties, and reduced growth in young children. These effects are more common if the mother or baby was exposed to high levels of lead. Some of these effects may persist beyond childhood.

How can families reduce the risks of exposure to lead?

❏ Avoid exposure to sources of lead.

❏ Do not allow children to chew or mouth surfaces that may have been painted with lead-based paint.

❏ If you have a water lead problem, run or flush water that has been standing overnight before drinking or cooking with it.

❏ Some types of paints and pigments that are used as make-up or hair coloring contain lead. Keep these kinds of products away from children

❏ If your home contains lead-based paint or you live in an area contaminated with lead, wash children's hands and faces often to remove lead dusts and soil, and regularly clean the house of dust and tracked in soil.

Is there a medical test to determine whether I've been exposed to lead?

A blood test is available to measure the amount of lead in your blood and to estimate the amount of your recent exposure to lead. Blood tests are commonly used to screen children for lead poisoning. Lead in teeth or bones can be measured by X-ray techniques, but these methods are not widely available. Exposure to lead also can be evaluated by measuring erythrocyte protoporphyrin (EP) in blood samples. EP is a part of red blood cells known to increase when the amount of lead in the blood is high. However, the EP level is not sensitive enough to identify children with elevated blood lead levels below about 25 micrograms per deciliter (μg/dL). These tests usually require special analytical equipment that is not available in a doctor's office. However, your doctor can draw blood samples and send them to appropriate laboratories for analysis.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that states test children at ages 1 and 2 years. Children should be tested at ages 3–6 years if they have never been tested for lead, if they receive services from public assistance programs for the poor such as Medicaid or the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, if they live in a building or frequently visit a house built before 1950; if they visit a home (house or apartment) built before 1978 that has been recently remodeled; and/or if they have a brother, sister, or playmate who has had lead poisoning. CDC considers a blood lead level of 10 μg/dL to be a level of concern for children.

EPA limits lead in drinking water to 15 μg per liter.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2007. Toxicological Profile for lead (Update). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Public Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-800-232-4636, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

MANGANESE
CAS # 127-18-4

Division of Toxicology ToxFAQs™ February 2001

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about manganese. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Manganese is a trace element and eating a small amount from food or water is needed to stay healthy. Exposure to excess levels of manganese may occur from breathing air, particularly where manganese is used in manufacturing, and from drinking water and eating food. At high levels, it can cause damage to the brain, liver, kidneys, and the developing fetus. This chemical has been found in at least 603 of 1,467 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is manganese?
(Pronounced măng′ gə-nēz′)

Manganese is a naturally occurring metal that is found in many types of rocks. Pure manganese is silver-colored, but does not occur naturally. It combines with other substances such as oxygen, sulfur, or chlorine. Manganese can also be combined with carbon to make organic manganese compounds. Common organic manganese compounds include pesticides, such as maneb or mancozeb, and methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl (MMT), a fuel additive in some gasolines.
Manganese is an essential trace element and is necessary for good health. Manganese can be found in several food items, including grains and cereals, and is found in high amounts in other foods, such as tea.

What happens to manganese when it enters the environment?

❑ Manganese can enter the air from iron, steel, and power plants, coke ovens, and from dust from mining operations.
❑ It can enter the water and soil from natural deposits, disposal of wastes or deposits from airborne sources.
❑ Manganese exists naturally in rivers, lakes, and under-ground water.
❑ Plants in the water can take up some of the manganese from water and concentrate it.

How might I be exposed to manganese?

❑ Everyone is exposed to small amounts of manganese in air, water, and food.
❑ Individuals who work in occupations that mine or use manganese are likely to be exposed to excess levels in their work environment.
❑ People who improperly use pesticides such as maneb and mancozeb, may be exposed to excess levels.

How can manganese affect my health?

Some individuals exposed to very high levels of manganese for long periods of time in their work developed mental and emotional disturbances and slow and clumsy body movements.
This combination of symptoms is a disease called "manganism." Workers usually do not develop symptoms of manganism unless they have been exposed to manganese for many months or years. Manganism occurs because too much manganese injures a part of the brain that helps control body movements.

Exposure to high levels of airborne manganese, such as in a manganese foundry or battery plant, can affect motor skills such as holding one's hand steady, performing fast hand movements, and maintaining balance. Exposure to high levels of the metal may also cause respiratory problems and sexual dysfunction.

How likely is manganese to cause cancer?

There are no human cancer data available for manganese. Exposure to high levels of manganese in food resulted in a slightly increased incidence of pancreatic tumors in male rats and thyroid tumors in male and female mice.

The EPA has determined that manganese is not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity.

How can manganese affect children?

Daily intake of small amounts of manganese is needed for growth and good health in children. Manganese is constantly present in the mother and is available to the developing fetus during pregnancy. Manganese is also transferred from a nursing mother to her infant in breast milk at levels that are appropriate for proper development.

Children, as well as adults, who lose the ability to remove excess manganese from their bodies develop nervous system problems. Because at certain ages children take in more than adults, there is concern that children may be more susceptible to the toxic effects of excess manganese.

Animal studies indicate that exposure to high levels of manganese can cause birth defects in the unborn. There is no information on whether mothers exposed to excess levels of manganese can transfer the excess to their developing fetus during pregnancy or to their nursing infant in breast milk.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to manganese?

In most situations, there is no need to reduce one's exposure to manganese because it is an essential nutrient for good health.

Excess levels of manganese may be present in soils, especially at or near hazardous waste sites. Therefore, it is important to discourage hand-to-mouth activity in young children, especially near hazardous waste sites or in areas that may have increased manganese levels in the soil.

Manganese is also present in pesticides that may be used around the home. These pesticides should be used in a manner consistent with manufacturer's instructions.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to manganese?

Tests are available that show levels of manganese in different body fluids. Measurements of manganese in blood, urine, feces, and scalp hair can be used to determine exposure to excess levels of manganese by testing whether levels of the metal in your body tissues are greater than normal. However, these tests cannot predict how the levels in your tissues will affect your health. Your doctor can take samples and send them to a testing laboratory.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a non-enforceable guideline for the level of manganese in drinking water at 0.05 milligrams per liter (0.05 mg/L).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a limit of 5 milligrams manganese per cubic meter (5 mg/m 3) of workplace air for the average amount of manganese during an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek.

The National Research Council has recommended safe and adequate daily intake levels for manganese that range from 0.3 to 1 mg/day for children up to 1 year, 1 to 2 mg/day for children up to age 10, and 2 to 5 mg/day for children 10 and older.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2000. Toxicological profile for manganese. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs™ Internet address is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html . ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

Molybdenum

What is molybdenum?
Molybdenum (Mo) (CAS 7439-98-7) occurs naturally in various ores; the principal source being molybdenite (MoS2). Molybdenum compounds are primarily used as an alloying element in steel, cast iron, and superalloys to increase hardenability, strength, toughness, and corrosion resistance. Molybdenum is considered an essential trace element; the provisional recommended dietary intake is 75-250 g/day for adults and older children.

How might I be exposed to molybdenum?
People may be exposed to molybdenum in food, water, soil and air. People in certain occupations may be exposed to higher molybdenum levels through inhalation and dermal contact with these compounds at workplaces where molybdenum compounds are produced or used (i.e., steel production).

How can molybdenum enter and leave my body?

Uptake into the body:
Water-soluble molybdenum compounds are readily taken up through the lungs and gastrointestinal tract; but insoluble compounds are not. Following absorption, molybdenum is distributed throughout the body with the highest levels generally found in the liver, kidneys, spleen, and bone.

Elimination from the body:
Limited data suggest that 25 to 50% of an oral dose is excreted in the urine, with small amounts also eliminated in the bile. Biological half-life may vary from several hours in laboratory animals to as much as several weeks in humans.

How can molybdenum affect my health?
Data documenting molybdenum toxicity in humans are limited. The physical and chemical state of the molybdenum, route of exposure, and compounding factors such as dietary copper and sulfur levels may all affect toxicity. Mild cases of molybdenosis may be clinically identifiable only by biochemical changes. Excessive intake of molybdenum causes a physiological copper deficiency, and conversely, in cases of inadequate dietary intake of copper, molybdenum toxicity may occur at lower exposure levels.

Information on the inhalation toxicity of molybdenum in humans following acute and subchronic exposures is not available. Studies of workers chronically exposed to Mo indicate a high incidence of weakness, fatigue, headache, irritability, lack of appetite, upper abdominal pain, joint and muscle pain, weight loss, red and moist skin, tremor of the hands, sweating, and dizziness. Occupational exposure to molybdenum may also result in increased serum bilirubin levels and affect immune system. Exposure to molybdenum may also include direct pulmonary effects such as pneumoconiosis. Adverse reproductive or developmental effects have not been observed workers exposed to molybdenum.

References

Toxnet (HSDB):
http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/search/f?./temp/~YmEL8P:1

The Risk Assessment Information System (RAIS):
http://rais.ornl.gov

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NAPHTHALENE
CAS # 91-20-3

1-METHYLNAPHTHALENE
CAS # 90-12-0

2-METHYLNAPHTHALENE
CAS # 91-57-6

Division of Toxicology ToxFAQs™ August 2005

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It is important you understand this information because these substances may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Exposure to naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, or 2-methylnaphthalene happens mostly from breathing air contaminated from the burning of wood, tobacco, or fossil fuels, industrial discharges, or moth repellents. Exposure to large amounts of naphthalene may damage or destroy some of your red blood cells. Naphthalene has caused cancer in animals. Naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene have been found in at least 687, 36, and 412, respectively, of the 1,662 National Priority List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What are naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene?

Naphthalene is a white solid that evaporates easily. Fuels such as petroleum and coal contain naphthalene. It is also called white tar, and tar camphor, and has been used in mothballs and moth flakes. Burning tobacco or wood produces naphthalene. It has a strong, but not unpleasant smell. The major commercial use of naphthalene is in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics. Its major consumer use is in moth repellents and toilet deodorant blocks.

1-Methylnaphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene are naphthalene-related compounds. 1-Methylnaphthalene is a clear liquid and 2-methylnaphthalene is a solid; both can be smelled in air and in water at very low concentrations.

1-Methylnaphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene are used to make other chemicals such as dyes and resins. 2-Methylnaphthalene is also used to make vitamin K.

What happens to naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene when they enter the environment?

- ❑ Naphthalene enters the environment from industrial and domestic sources, and from accidental spills.
- ❑ Naphthalene can dissolve in water to a limited degree and may be present in drinking water from wells close to hazardous waste sites and landfills.
- ❑ Naphthalene can become weakly attached to soil or pass through soil into underground water.
- ❑ In air, moisture and sunlight break it down within 1 day. In water, bacteria break it down or it evaporates into the air.
- ❑ Naphthalene does not accumulate in the flesh of animals or fish that you might eat.
- ❑ 1-Methylnaphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene are expected to act like naphthalene in air, water, or soil because they have similar chemical and physical properties.

How might I be exposed to naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene?

- ❑ Breathing low levels in outdoor air.
- ❑ Breathing air contaminated from industrial discharges or smoke from burning wood, tobacco, or fossil fuels.
- ❑ Using or making moth repellents, coal tar products, dyes or inks could expose you to these chemicals in the air.
- ❑ Drinking water from contaminated wells.
- ❑ Touching fabrics that are treated with moth repellents containing naphthalene.
- ❑ Exposure to naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene from eating foods or drinking beverages is unlikely.

How can naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene affect my health?

Exposure to large amounts of naphthalene may damage or destroy some of your red blood cells. This could cause you to have too few red blood cells until your body replaces the destroyed cells. This condition is called hemolytic anemia. Some symptoms of hemolytic anemia are fatigue, lack of appetite, restlessness, and pale skin. Exposure to large amounts of naphthalene may also cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, blood in the urine, and a yellow color to the skin. Animals sometimes develop cloudiness in their eyes after swallowing high amounts of naphthalene. It is not clear whether this also develops in people. Rats and mice that breathed naphthalene vapors daily for a lifetime developed irritation and inflammation of their nose and lungs. It is unclear if naphthalene

causes reproductive effects in animals; most evidence says it does not.

There are no studies of humans exposed to 1-methylnaphthalene or 2-methylnaphthalene.

Mice fed food containing 1-methylnaphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene for most of their lives had part of their lungs filled with an abnormal material.

How likely are naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, or 2-methylnaphthalene to cause cancer?

There is no direct evidence in humans that naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, or 2-methylnaphthalene cause cancer. However, cancer from naphthalene exposure has been seen in animal studies. Some female mice that breathed naphthalene vapors daily for a lifetime developed lung tumors. Some male and female rats exposed to naphthalene in a similar manner also developed nose tumors.

Based on the results from animal studies, the Department of Health and Humans Services (DHHS) concluded that naphthalene is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded that naphthalene is possibly carcinogenic to humans. The EPA determined that naphthalene is a possible human carcinogen (Group C) and that the data are inadequate to assess the human carcinogenic potential of 2-methylnaphthalene.

How can naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, or 2-methylnaphthalene affect children?

Hospitals have reported many cases of hemolytic anemia in children, including newborns and infants, who either ate naphthalene mothballs or deodorants cakes or who were in close contact with clothing or blankets stored in naphthalene mothballs. Naphthalene can move from a pregnant woman's blood to the unborn baby's blood. Naphthalene has been detected in some samples of breast milk from the general U.S. population, but not at levels that are expected to be of concern.

There is no information on whether naphthalene has affected development in humans. No developmental abnormalities were observed in the offspring from rats, mice, and rabbits fed naphthalene during pregnancy.

We do not have any information on possible health effects of 1-methylnaphthalene or 2-methylnaphthalene on children.

How can families reduce the risks of exposure to naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene?

❑ Families can reduce the risks of exposure to naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene by avoiding smoking tobacco, generating smoke during cooking, or using fireplaces or heating appliances in the their homes.

❑ If families use naphthalene-containing moth repellents, the material should be enclosed in containers that prevent vapors from escaping, and kept out of the reach from children.

❑ Blankets and clothing stored with naphthalene moth repellents should be aired outdoors to remove naphthalene odors and washed before they are used.

❑ Families should inform themselves of the contents of air deodorizers that are used in their homes and refrain from using deodorizers with naphthalene.

Is there a medical test to determine whether I've been exposed to naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene?

Tests are available that measure levels of these chemicals and their breakdown products in samples of urine, feces, blood, maternal milk, or body fat. These tests are not routinely available in a doctor's office because they require special equipment, but samples can be sent to special testing laboratories. These tests cannot determine exactly how much naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, or 2-methylnaphthalene you were exposed to or predict whether harmful effects will occur. If the samples are collected within a day or two of exposure, then the tests can show if you were exposed to a large or small amount of naphthalene, 1-methylnaphthalene, or 2-methylnaphthalene.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA recommends that children not drink water with over 0.5 parts per million (0.5 ppm) naphthalene for more than 10 days or over 0.4 ppm for any longer than 7 years. Adults should not drink water with more than 1 ppm for more than 7 years. For water consumed over a lifetime (70 years), the EPA suggests that it contain no more than 0.1 ppm naphthalene.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) set a limit of 10 ppm for the level of naphthalene in workplace air during an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) considers more than 500 ppm of naphthalene in air to be immediately dangerous to life or health. This is the exposure level of a chemical that is likely to impair a worker's ability to leave a contaminate area and therefore, results in permanent health problems or death.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2005. Toxicological Profile for Naphthalene, 1-Methylnaphthalene, and 2-Methylnaphthalene (Update). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

RADIUM
CAS # 7440-14-4

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs July 1999

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about radium. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Radium is a radioactive substance formed from the breakdown of uranium and thorium. Exposure to high levels results in an increased risk of bone, liver, and breast cancer. This chemical has been found in at least 18 of the 1,177 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is radium?

(Pronounced rāʹdē-əm)

Radium is a naturally occurring silvery-white radioactive metal that can exist in several forms called isotopes. Radium is formed when uranium and thorium break down in the environment. Uranium and thorium are found in small amounts in most rocks and soil. Two of the main radium isotopes found in the environment are radium-226 and radium-228.

Radium undergoes radioactive decay. It divides into two parts—one part is called radiation and the other part is called a daughter. The daughter, like radium, is not stable, and it also divides into radiation and another daughter. The dividing of daughters continues until a stable, nonradioactive daughter is formed. During the decay process, alpha, beta, and gamma radiation are released. Alpha particles can travel only a short distance and cannot travel through your skin. Beta particles can penetrate through your skin, but they cannot go all the way through your body. Gamma radiation can go all the way through your body.

Radium has been used as a radiation source for treating cancer, in radiography of metals, and combined with other metals as a neutron source for research and radiation instrument calibration. Until the 1960s, radium was a component of the luminous paints used for watch and clock dials, intrument panels in airplanes, military instruments, and compasses.

What happens to radium when it enters the environment?

- Radium is constantly being produced by the radioactive decay of uranium and thorium.
- Radium is present at very low levels in rocks and soil and may strongly attach to those materials.
- Radium may also be found in air.
- High concentrations are found in water in some areas of the country.
- Uranium mining results in higher levels of radium in water near uranium mines.
- Radium in the soil may be absorbed by plants.
- It may concentrate in fish and other aquatic organisms.

How might I be exposed to radium?

- Everyone is exposed to low levels of radium in the air, water, and food.

- Higher levels may be found in the air near industries that burn coal or other fuels.
- It may be found at higher levels in drinking water from wells.
- Miners, particularly miners of uranium and hard rock, are exposed to higher levels of radium.
- It may also be found at radioactive waste disposal sites.

How can radium affect my health?

Radium has been shown to cause effects on the blood (anemia) and eyes (cataracts). It also has been shown to affect the teeth, causing an increase in broken teeth and cavities. Patients who were injected with radium in Germany, from 1946 to 1950, for the treatment of certain diseases including tuberculosis were significantly shorter as adults than people who were not treated.

How likely is radium to cause cancer?

Exposure to high levels of radium results in an increased incidence of bone, liver, and breast cancer. The EPA and the National Academy of Sciences, Committee on Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation, has stated that radium is a known human carcinogen.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to radium?

Urine tests can determine if you have been exposed to radium. Another test measures the amount of radon (a breakdown product of radium) in exhaled air. Both types of tests require special equipment and cannot be done in a doctor's office. These tests cannot tell how much radium you were exposed to, nor can they be used to predict whether you will develop harmful health effects.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a drinking water limit of 5 picocuries per liter (5 pCi/L) for radium-226 and radium-228 (combined).

The EPA has set a soil concentration limit for radium-226 in uranium and thorium mill tailings of 5 picocuries per gram (5 pCi/g) in the first 15 centimeters of soil and 15 pCi/g in deeper soil.

The federal recommendations have been updated as of July 1999.

Glossary

Anemia: A decreased ability of the blood to transport oxygen.

Carcinogen: A substance that can cause cancer.

CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service.

National Priorities List: A list of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites.

Picocurie (pCi): A unit used to measure the quantity of radioactive material.

rem: A unit used to measure radiation dose.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1990. Toxicological profile for radium. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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SELENIUM

CAS # 7782-49-2

Division of Toxicology ToxFAQs™ September 2003

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about selenium. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It is important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: People may be exposed to low levels of selenium daily through food and water. Selenium is a trace mineral needed in small amounts for good health, but exposure to much higher levels can result in neurological effects and brittle hair and deformed nails. Occupational inhalation exposure to selenium vapors may cause dizziness, fatigue, irritation of mucous membranes, and respiratory effects. This substance has been found in at least 508 of the 1,636 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is selenium?

Selenium is a naturally occurring mineral element that is distributed widely in nature in most rocks and soils. In its pure form, it exists as metallic gray to black hexagonal crystals, but in nature it is usually combined with sulfide or with silver, copper, lead, and nickel minerals. Most processed selenium is used in the electronics industry, but it is also used: as a nutritional supplement; in the glass industry; as a component of pigments in plastics, paints, enamels, inks, and rubber; in the preparation of pharmaceuticals; as a nutritional feed additive for poultry and livestock; in pesticide formulations; in rubber production; as an ingredient in antidandruff shampoos; and as a constituent of fungicides. Radioactive selenium is used in diagnostic medicine.

What happens to selenium when it enters the environment?

❑ Selenium occurs naturally in the environment and can be released by both natural and manufacturing processes.
❑ Selenium dust can enter the air from burning coal and oil. This selenium dust will eventually settle over the land and water.
❑ It also enters water from rocks and soil, and from agricultural and industrial waste. Some selenium compounds will dissolve in water, and some will settle to the bottom as particles.
❑ Insoluble forms of selenium will remain in soil, but soluble forms are very mobile and may enter surface water from soils.
❑ Selenium may accumulate up the food chain.

How might I be exposed to selenium?

❑ The general population is exposed to very low levels of selenium in air, food, and water. The majority of the daily intake comes from food.
❑ People working in or living near industries where selenium is produced, processed, or converted into commercial products may be exposed to higher levels of selenium in the air.
❑ People living in the vicinity of hazardous waste sites or coal burning plants may also be exposed to higher levels of selenium.

How can selenium affect my health?

Selenium has both beneficial and harmful effects. Low doses of selenium are needed to maintain good health. However, exposure to high levels can cause adverse health effects. Short-term oral exposure to high concentrations of selenium may cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Chronic oral exposure to high concentrations of selenium compounds can produce a disease called selenosis. The major signs of selenosis are hair loss, nail brittleness, and neurological abnormalities (such as numbness and other odd sensations

in the extremities).
Brief exposures to high levels of elemental selenium or selenium dioxide in air can result in respiratory tract irritation, bronchitis, difficulty breathing, and stomach pains. Longer-term exposure to either of these air-borne forms can cause respiratory irritation, bronchial spasms, and coughing.
Levels of these forms of selenium that would be necessary to produce such effects are normally not seen outside of the workplace.
Animal studies have shown that very high amounts of selenium can affect sperm production and the female reproductive cycle. We do not know if similar effects would occur in humans.

How likely is selenium to cause cancer?

Studies of laboratory animals and people show that most selenium compounds probably do not cause cancer. In fact, studies in humans suggest that lower-than-normal selenium levels in the diet might increase the risk of cancer.
The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that selenium and selenium compounds are not classifiable as to their carcinogenicity to humans.
The EPA has determined that one specific form of selenium, selenium sulfide, is a probable human carcinogen. Selenium sulfide is not present in foods and is a very different chemical from the organic and inorganic selenium compounds found in foods and in the environment.

How can selenium affect children?

It is likely that the health effects seen in children exposed to selenium will be similar to the effects seen in adults. However, one study found that children may be less susceptible to the health effects of selenium than adults. Selenium compounds have not been shown to cause birth defects in humans or in other mammals.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to selenium?

❑ Certain dietary supplements and shampoos contain selenium; these should be used according to the manufacturer's directions.
❑ Children living near waste sites that contain selenium or coal burning plants should be encouraged to wash their hands before eating and to avoid putting their unwashed hands in their mouths.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to selenium?

Low levels of selenium are normally found in body tissues and urine. Blood and urine tests for selenium are most useful for people who have recently been exposed to high levels. Toenail clippings can be used to determine longer-term exposure. These tests are not usually available at your doctor's office, but your doctor can send the samples to a laboratory that can perform the tests. None of these tests, however, can predict whether you will experience any health effects.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA restricts the amount of selenium allowed in public water supplies to 50 parts total selenium per billion parts of water (50 ppb).
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets a limit of 0.2 mg selenium/m^3 of workroom air for an 8-hour work shift.
ATSDR and the EPA have determined that 5 micrograms of selenium per kilogram of body weight taken daily would not be expected to cause any adverse health effects over a lifetime of such intake.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2003. Toxicological Profile for Selenium (Update) Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

TETRACHLOROETHYLENE
CAS # 127-18-4

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs September 1997

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about tetrachloroethylene. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tetrachloroethylene is a manufactured chemical used for dry cleaning and metal degreasing. Exposure to very high concentrations of tetrachloroethylene can cause dizziness, headaches, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, difficulty in speaking and walking, unconsciousness, and death. Tetrachloroethylene has been found in at least 771 of the 1,430 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is tetrachloroethylene?

(Pronounced tĕt′rə-klôr′ ō-ĕth′ə-lēn′)

Tetrachloroethylene is a manufactured chemical that is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and for metal-degreasing. It is also used to make other chemicals and is used in some consumer products.

Other names for tetrachloroethylene include perchloroethylene, PCE, and tetrachloroethene. It is a nonflammable liquid at room temperature. It evaporates easily into the air and has a sharp, sweet odor. Most people can smell tetrachloroethylene when it is present in the air at a level of 1 part tetrachloroethylene per million parts of air (1 ppm) or more, although some can smell it at even lower levels.

What happens to tetrachloroethylene when it enters the environment?

- Much of the tetrachloroethylene that gets into water or soil evaporates into the air.
- Microorganisms can break down some of the tetrachloroethylene in soil or underground water.
- In the air, it is broken down by sunlight into other chemicals or brought back to the soil and water by rain.
- It does not appear to collect in fish or other animals that live in water.

How might I be exposed to tetrachloroethylene?

- When you bring clothes from the dry cleaners, they will release small amounts of tetrachloroethylene into the air.
- When you drink water containing tetrachloroethylene, you are exposed to it.

How can tetrachloroethylene affect my health?

High concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (particularly in closed, poorly ventilated areas) can cause dizziness, headache, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, difficulty in speaking and walking, unconsciousness, and death.

Irritation may result from repeated or extended skin contact with it. These symptoms occur almost entirely in work (or hobby) environments when people have been accidentally exposed to high concentrations or have intentionally used tetrachloroethylene to get a "high."

In industry, most workers are exposed to levels lower than those causing obvious nervous system effects. The health effects of breathing in air or drinking water with low levels of tetrachloroethylene are not known.

Results from some studies suggest that women who work in dry cleaning industries where exposures to tetrachloroethyl-

ene can be quite high may have more menstrual problems and spontaneous abortions than women who are not exposed. However, it is not known if tetrachloroethylene was responsible for these problems because other possible causes were not considered.

Results of animal studies, conducted with amounts much higher than those that most people are exposed to, show that tetrachloroethylene can cause liver and kidney damage. Exposure to very high levels of tetrachloroethylene can be toxic to the unborn pups of pregnant rats and mice. Changes in behavior were observed in the offspring of rats that breathed high levels of the chemical while they were pregnant.

How likely is tetrachloroethylene to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that tetrachloroethylene may reasonably be anticipated to be a carcinogen. Tetrachloroethylene has been shown to cause liver tumors in mice and kidney tumors in male rats.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to tetrachloroethylene?

One way of testing for tetrachloroethylene exposure is to measure the amount of the chemical in the breath, much the same way breath-alcohol measurements are used to determine the amount of alcohol in the blood.

Because it is stored in the body's fat and slowly released into the bloodstream, tetrachloroethylene can be detected in the breath for weeks following a heavy exposure.

Tetrachloroethylene and trichloroacetic acid (TCA), a breakdown product of tetrachloroethylene, can be detected in the blood. These tests are relatively simple to perform. These tests aren't available at most doctors' offices, but can be performed at special laboratories that have the right equipment.

Because exposure to other chemicals can produce the same breakdown products in the urine and blood, the tests for breakdown products cannot determine if you have been exposed to tetrachloroethylene or the other chemicals.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA maximum contaminant level for the amount of tetrachloroethylene that can be in drinking water is 0.005 milligrams tetrachloroethylene per liter of water (0.005 mg/L).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a limit of 100 ppm for an 8-hour workday over a 40-hour workweek.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends that tetrachloroethylene be handled as a potential carcinogen and recommends that levels in workplace air should be as low as possible.

Glossary

Carcinogen: A substance with the ability to cause cancer.

CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service.

Milligram (mg): One thousandth of a gram.

Nonflammable: Will not burn.

References

This ToxFAQs information is taken from the 1997 Toxicological Profile for Tetrachloroethylene (update) produced by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service in Atlanta, GA.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop F-32, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone:1-888-422-8737, FAX: 770-488-4178. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

TRICHLOROETHYLENE

CAS # 79-01-6

Division of Toxicology ToxFAQs™ July 2003

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about trichloroethylene. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. This information is important because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Trichloroethylene is a colorless liquid which is used as a solvent for cleaning metal parts. Drinking or breathing high levels of trichloroethylene may cause nervous system effects, liver and lung damage, abnormal heartbeat, coma, and possibly death. Trichloroethylene has been found in at least 852 of the 1,430 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is trichloroethylene?

Trichloroethylene (TCE) is a nonflammable, colorless liquid with a somewhat sweet odor and a sweet, burning taste. It is used mainly as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts, but it is also an ingredient in adhesives, paint removers, typewriter correction fluids, and spot removers.

Trichloroethylene is not thought to occur naturally in the environment. However, it has been found in underground water sources and many surface waters as a result of the manufacture, use, and disposal of the chemical.

What happens to trichloroethylene when it enters the environment?

- Trichloroethylene dissolves a little in water, but it can remain in ground water for a long time.
- Trichloroethylene quickly evaporates from surface water, so it is commonly found as a vapor in the air.
- Trichloroethylene evaporates less easily from the soil than from surface water. It may stick to particles and remain for a long time.
- Trichloroethylene may stick to particles in water, which will cause it to eventually settle to the bottom sediment.
- Trichloroethylene does not build up significantly in plants and animals.

How might I be exposed to trichloroethylene?

- Breathing air in and around the home which has been contaminated with trichloroethylene vapors from shower water or household products such as spot removers and typewriter correction fluid.
- Drinking, swimming, or showering in water that has been contaminated with trichloroethylene.
- Contact with soil contaminated with trichloroethylene, such as near a hazardous waste site.
- Contact with the skin or breathing contaminated air while manufacturing trichloroethylene or using it at work to wash paint or grease from skin or equipment.

How can trichloroethylene affect my health?

Breathing small amounts may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination, and difficulty concentrating.

Breathing large amounts of trichloroethylene may cause impaired heart function, unconsciousness, and death. Breathing it for long periods may cause nerve, kidney, and liver damage.

Drinking large amounts of trichloroethylene may cause nausea, liver damage, unconsciousness, impaired heart function, or death.

Drinking small amounts of trichloroethylene for long periods may cause liver and kidney damage, impaired immune system function, and impaired fetal development in pregnant women, although the extent of some of these effects is not yet clear.

Skin contact with trichloroethylene for short periods may cause skin rashes.

How likely is trichloroethylene to cause cancer?

Some studies with mice and rats have suggested that high levels of trichloroethylene may cause liver, kidney, or lung cancer. Some studies of people exposed over long periods to high levels of trichloroethylene in drinking water or in workplace air have found evidence of increased cancer. Although, there are some concerns about the studies of people who were exposed to trichloroethylene, some of the effects found in people were similar to effects in animals.

In its 9th Report on Carcinogens, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) determined that trichloroethylene is "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen." The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that trichloroethylene is "probably carcinogenic to humans."

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to trichloroethylene?

If you have recently been exposed to trichloroethylene, it can be detected in your breath, blood, or urine. The breath test, if it is performed soon after exposure, can tell if you have been exposed to even a small amount of trichloroethylene.

Exposure to larger amounts is assessed by blood and urine tests, which can detect trichloroethylene and many of its breakdown products for up to a week after exposure. However, exposure to other similar chemicals can produce the same breakdown products, so their detection is not absolute proof of exposure to trichloroethylene. This test isn't available at most doctors' offices, but can be done at special laboratories that have the right equipment.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a maximum contaminant level for trichloroethylene in drinking water at 0.005 milligrams per liter (0.005 mg/L) or 5 parts of TCE per billion parts water.

The EPA has also developed regulations for the handling and disposal of trichloroethylene.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set an exposure limit of 100 parts of trichloroethylene per million parts of air (100 ppm) for an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek.

Glossary

Carcinogenicity: The ability of a substance to cause cancer.
CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service.
Evaporate: To change into a vapor or gas.
Milligram (mg): One thousandth of a gram.
Nonflammable: Will not burn.
ppm: Parts per million.
Sediment: Mud and debris that have settled to the bottom of a body of water.
Solvent: A chemical that dissolves other substances.

References

This ToxFAQs information is taken from the 1997 Toxicological Profile for Trichloroethylene (update) produced by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service in Atlanta, GA.

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ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

URANIUM
CAS # 7440-61-1

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs September 1999

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about uranium. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Uranium is a naturally occurring chemical substance that is mildly radioactive. Everyone is exposed to low amounts of uranium through food, air, and water. Exposure to high levels of uranium can cause kidney disease. It is not known to cause cancer, but can decay into other radioactive materials that may. Uranium above background levels has been found in at least 54 of the 1,517 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is uranium?

(Pronounced yŏŏ-rā′nē-əm)

Uranium is a common naturally occurring and radioactive substance. It is a normal part of rocks, soil, air, and water, and it occurs in nature in the form of minerals - but never as a metal. Uranium metal is silver-colored with a gray surface and is nearly as strong as steel. Natural uranium is a mixture of three types or isotopes called U-234 (^{234}U), U-235 (^{235}U), and U-238 (^{238}U). All three are the same chemical, but they have different radioactive properties.

Typical concentrations in soil are a few parts per million (ppm). Some rocks contain high enough mineral concentrations of uranium to be mined. The rocks are taken to a chemical plant where the uranium is taken out and made into uranium chemicals or metal. The remaining sand is called mill tailings. Tailings are rich in the chemicals and radioactive materials that were not removed, such as radium and thorium.

One of the radioactive properties of uranium is half-life, or the time it takes for half of the isotope to give off its radiation and change into another substance. The half-lives are very long (around 200,000 years for ^{234}U, 700 million years for ^{235}U, and 5 billion years for ^{238}U. This is why uranium still exists in nature and has not all decayed away.

The isotope ^{235}U is useful as a fuel in power plants and weapons. To make fuel, natural uranium is separated into two portions. The fuel portion has more ^{235}U than normal and is called enriched uranium. The leftover portion with less ^{235}U than normal is called depleted uranium, or DU. Natural, depleted, and enriched uranium are chemically identical. DU is the least radioactive and enriched uranium is the most.

What happens to uranium when it enters the environment?

- Uranium is already naturally present throughout the environment. Human activities, wind, streams, and volcanoes can move the uranium around and change the levels that you are exposed to.
- Uranium is found in soil where it may stay for billions of years.
- It exists as dust in the air and the dust settles onto surface water, soil, and plants.
- Uranium enters water by dissolving soil, eroding soil and rocks, or in releases from processing plants. Larger particles settle into the bottom of lakes, rivers, and ponds and join uranium that is there naturally.
- Some plants may absorb uranium or it may stick to the root surface.

How might I be exposed to uranium?

- Breathing air or drinking water in a place that has higher than background levels of uranium.
- Eating food grown in areas with higher than background levels of uranium.
- Working in factories that process uranium or with phosphate fertilizers, or living near any type of mine.
- Living near a coal-fired power plant.

How can uranium affect my health?

All uranium mixtures (natural, depleted, and enriched) have the same chemical effect on your body. Large amounts of uranium can react with the tissues in your body and damage

your kidneys. The radiation damage from exposure to high levels of natural or depleted uranium are not known to cause cancer (see next section).

How likely is uranium to cause cancer?

Humans and animals exposed to high levels of uranium did not have higher cancer rates. The Committee on the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR IV) reported that eating food or drinking water that has normal amounts of uranium will most likely not cause cancer.

Uranium can decay into other radioactive substances, such as radium, which can cause cancer if you are exposed to enough of them for a long enough period of time. Studies have reported lung and other cancers in uranium miners; however, the miners also smoked and were exposed to other substances that cause cancer, such as radon and silica dust.

How can uranium affect children?

Like adults, children are exposed to small amounts of uranium in air, food, and drinking water. If children were exposed to very large amounts of uranium, it is possible that they might have kidney damage like that seen in adults. We do not know whether children differ from adults in their susceptibility to the health effects of uranium exposure.

It is not known if exposure to uranium can affect the developing human fetus. In laboratory animals, high doses of uranium in drinking water resulted in birth defects and an increase in fetal deaths. Measurements of uranium have not been made in pregnant women, so we do not know if uranium can cross the placenta and enter the fetus. In an experiment with pregnant animals, only a small amount of the injected uranium reached the fetus.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to uranium?

If your doctor finds that you have been exposed to significant amounts of uranium, ask whether your children might also be exposed. Your doctor might need to ask your state health department to investigate.

It is possible that higher-than-normal levels of uranium may be in the soil at a hazardous waste site. If you live near such a hazardous waste site, you should prevent your children from eating dirt and make sure that they wash their hands frequently and before eating. You should also wash fruits and vegetables grown in that soil well, and consider discarding the outside portion of root vegetables.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to uranium?

Uranium is in your normal diet, so there will always be some level of uranium in all parts of your body. Uranium is normally measured in a sample of urine collected and sent to a laboratory. Blood, feces, and tissue samples are rarely used. Because most uranium leaves the body within a few days, higher than normal amounts in your urine shows whether you have been exposed to larger-than-normal amounts within the last week or so. Some highly sensitive radiation methods can measure uranium levels for a long time after you take in a large amount. Also, some radiation equipment can tell if uranium is on your skin.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA requires that spills or accidental releases of uranium waste into the environment containing 0.1 curies or more of radioactivity must be reported to the EPA.

The EPA is currently working to develop an appropriate drinking water limit for uranium based on a broad range of human and animal health studies.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has set occupational exposure limits for uranium in breathing air over an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek. The limits are 0.05 milligrams per cubic meter (0.05 mg/m^3) for soluble uranium dust and 0.25 mg/m^3 for insoluble uranium dust.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. 1999. Toxicological profile for uranium. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

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VANADIUM
CAS # 7440-62-2

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs September 1995

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about vanadium. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

SUMMARY: Everyone is exposed to low levels of vanadium in air, water, and food; however, most people are exposed mainly from food. Breathing high levels of vanadium may cause lung irritation, chest pain, coughing, and other effects. This chemical has been found in at least 385 of 1,416 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

What is vanadium?

(Pronounced və-nāˈdē-əm)

Vanadium is a compound that occurs in nature as a white-to-gray metal, and is often found as crystals. Pure vanadium has no smell. It usually combines with other elements such as oxygen, sodium, sulfur, or chloride. Vanadium and vanadium compounds can be found in the earth's crust and in rocks, some iron ores, and crude petroleum deposits.

Vanadium is mostly combined with other metals to make special metal mixtures called alloys. Vanadium in the form of vanadium oxide is a component in special kinds of steel that is used for automobile parts, springs, and ball bearings. Most of the vanadium used in the United States is used to make steel. Vanadium oxide is a yellow-orange powder, dark-gray flakes, or yellow crystals. Vanadium is also mixed with iron to make important parts for aircraft engines.

Small amounts of vanadium are used in making rubber, plastics, ceramics, and other chemicals.

What happens to vanadium when it enters the environment?

- Vanadium mainly enters the environment from natural sources and from the burning of fuel oils.
- It stays in the air, water, and soil for a long time.
- It does not dissolve well in water.
- It combines with other elements and particles.
- It sticks to soil sediments.
- Low levels have been found in plants, but it is not likely to build up in the tissues of animals.

How might I be exposed to vanadium?

- Exposure to very low levels in air, water, and food.
- Eating higher levels of it in certain foods.
- Breathing air near an industry that burns fuel oil or coal; these industries release vanadium oxide into the air.
- Working in industries that process it or make products containing it.
- Breathing contaminated air or drinking contaminated water near waste sites or landfills containing vanadium.
- Vanadium is not readily absorbed by the body from the stomach, gut, or contact with the skin.

How can vanadium affect my health?

Exposure to high levels of vanadium can cause harmful health effects. The major effects from breathing high levels of vanadium are on the lungs, throat, and eyes. Workers who breathed it for short and long periods sometimes had lung irritation, coughing, wheezing, chest pain, runny nose, and a

sore throat. These effects stopped soon after they stopped breathing the contaminated air. Similar effects have been observed in animal studies. No other significant health effects of vanadium have been found in people.

We do not know the health effects in people of ingesting vanadium. Animals that ingested very large doses have died. Lower, but still high levels of vanadium in the water of pregnant animals resulted in minor birth defects. Some animals that breathed or ingested vanadium over a long term had minor kidney and liver changes.

The amounts of vanadium given in these animal studies that resulted in harmful effects are much higher than those likely to occur in the environment.

How likely is vanadium to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have not classified vanadium as to its human carcinogenicity.

No human studies are available on the carcinogenicity of vanadium. No increase in tumors was noted in a long-term animal study where the animals were exposed to vanadium in the drinking water.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to vanadium?

There are medical tests available to measure levels of vanadium in urine and blood. These tests are not routinely performed at doctors' offices because they require special equipment, but your doctor can take samples and send them to a testing laboratory. These tests can't determine if harmful health effects will occur from the exposure to vanadium.

Another indicator of high vanadium exposure in people is that their tongues may have a green color on top.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA requires discharges or spills of 1,000 pounds or more of vanadium into the environment to be reported.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set an exposure limit of 0.05 milligrams per cubic meter (0.05 mg/m^3) for vanadium pentoxide dust and 0.1 mg/m^3 for vanadium pentoxide fumes in workplace air for an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) has recommended an occupational exposure limit of 0.05 mg/m^3 for vanadium pentoxide.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has recommended that 35 mg/m^3 of vanadium be considered immediately dangerous to life and health. This is the exposure level of a chemical that is likely to cause permanent health problems or death.

Glossary

Carcinogenicity: Ability to cause cancer.

Ingesting: Taking food or drink into your body.

Long-term: Lasting one year or longer.

Milligram (mg): One thousandth of a gram.

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1992. Toxicological profile for vanadium. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

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