



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

ARSINE

What is arsine?

Arsine is a colorless, toxic gas with a mild garlic odor. Arsine is formed when arsenic comes in contact with an acid. Arsine is most commonly used in the semiconductor and metal refining industries.

What are possible methods of exposure?

- accidental formation of arsine in the workplace
- breathing arsine that was released into the air

What are possible symptoms of arsine exposure?

Inhalation:

- low dose
 - weakness
 - fatigue
 - drowsiness
 - headache
 - confusion
 - shortness of breath
 - rapid breathing
 - nausea & vomiting
 - abdominal pain
 - red or dark urine
 - muscle cramps

- high dose
 - loss of consciousness
 - convulsions
 - paralysis
 - respiratory failure, possibly leading to death

How is arsine detected?

Arsine has a mild garlic odor. The odor can be detected only at levels greater than those necessary to cause poisoning.

What is the treatment for exposure to arsine?

If you have been exposed to arsine, contact the emergency medical authorities immediately.

Treatment consists of providing supportive medical care in a hospital setting. Blood transfusions and fluids may be needed. Some people may require hemodialysis for kidney failure. No antidotes are available for arsine.

For more information on arsine contact:

Ottawa County Health Department
www.miOttawa.org

Center for Disease Control and Prevention
www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/arsine/
Phone: (888) 246-2675