



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

PHOSGENE OXIME

What is phosgene oxime?

Phosgene oxime is colorless crystalline solid that has a disagreeable, irritating odor. Phosgene oxime is a chemical warfare agent that produces intense itching and a rash similar to hives when it comes in contact with skin.

What are possible methods of exposure?

- breathing air that contains phosgene oxime
- skin or eye contact with containing phosgene oxime
- touching or drinking water that contains phosgene oxime

What are possible symptoms of phosgene oxime exposure?

Signs and symptoms occur immediately following a phosgene oxime exposure.

Skin contact:

- whitening of skin surrounded by red rings
- after 24 hours, white spots become brown and form scabs

Eyes:

- severe pain and irritation
- tearing
- possible temporary blindness

Respiratory tract:

- immediate irritation
- runny nose
- hoarseness
- sinus pain

How is phosgene oxime detected?

Phosgene oxime has disagreeable, irritating odor.

What is the treatment for exposure to phosgene oxime?

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

No antidote exists for phosgene oxime. Treatment consists of removing the phosgene oxime from the body as soon as possible and providing supportive medical care in hospital setting.

For more information on phosgene oxime contact:

Ottawa County Health Department
www.miOttawa.org

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