

Emergency Response Guide

Cyanides



Solution or White granular or crystalline solid, in crystals, beads or cyanoids (pillow shaped briquettes, like small cakes of soap).

Soluble in water.

On contact with acid, acid fumes, steam or water will give off highly toxic and flammable hydrogen cyanide gas, which has a faint almond-like odour. (Odour not detectable by 60% of the population.)

H330 (Fatal if inhaled)

H310 (Fatal in contact with skin)

H300 (Fatal if swallowed).

Emergency Contact			
Emergency Services: Dial (0) 000			
Poisons Information Centre: Dial (0) 13 11 26			
Building Manager	Chief Warden	Warden	First Aider
Emergency Procedures			
Cyanide Spill outside a fume cupboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuate the area and move unprotected personnel out of danger • Prevent further release of cyanide and restrict access to the spill site • Dial 000 or 0 000 from an internal phone and advise Curtin Safer Communities on 4444 from an internal phone or 9266 4444 from a mobile phone • DO NOT RE-ENTER THE AREA • Prevent spillage from entering any drains or waterways 		



First Aid

- Check for danger, put on PPE and see if the casualty is responsive
- Dial 000 or 0 000 from an internal phone and advise Curtin Safer Communities on 4444 from an internal phone or 9266 4444 from a mobile phone **to request medical assistance for cyanide exposure.**
- Remove the patient from further exposure, if safe to do so.
- If trained, administer 100% oxygen to anyone who is exposed to cyanide, whether conscious or unconscious, breathing or not breathing
- **If the patient is not breathing, do not use mouth to mouth resuscitation** due to the risk of contamination. Use a resuscitation bag and valve mask
- If pulse is absent, commence CPR
- Remove any contaminated clothing and place in a sealed labelled bag. Wash the patient with copious amounts of water
- **Accompanying the patient to hospital should be a copy of the Cyanide Information Pack.**

CYANIDE EMERGENCY KIT

Workplaces that use cyanides should keep a cyanide emergency kit. This kit should be easily accessible and clearly marked.

Staff, especially those trained in cyanide use and first aid should be aware of its location. The following is a checklist of recommended items that should be kept in a cyanide emergency kit.

Equipment	Quantity in stock	Quantity Required	Comments
Nitrile Gloves		8 (Pairs)	
A 'C' size 'Medical E.P. Grade Oxygen' cylinder and oxygen regulator		1	
Non-rebreathing (high concentration) mask with tubing		1	
Re-usable adult resuscitator		1	
An approved airway		1	
Trauma Shears (to assist with the removal of clothes)		1	
Plastic biohazard bags labelled 'Contaminated with Cyanide'		6	
A copy of the current SDS for the cyanide compound (s) being used – ensure the correct SDS is given to the medical staff		1	
A copy of the Curtin Cyanide Information Sheet		1	
A copy of the Medical Oxygen Resuscitator Instruction Manual		1	

Emergency kits should be regularly checked, maintained and breathing oxygen restocked if they have passed or are close to their expiry dates. The location and number of emergency kits and breathing oxygen cylinders should be carefully considered based on the size of the workplace, where in the workplace cyanides are used and the potential for exposure.