

Biological Agents				
AGENT	INCUBATION	LETHALITY	PERSISTENCE	DISSEMINATION
Bacteria				
Anthrax	1–5 Days	3–5 days fatal	Very stable	Aerosol
Cholera	12 hours–6 days	Low with treatment High without treatment	Unstable Stable in saltwater	Aerosol Sabotage of water
Plague	1–3 days	1–6 days fatal	Extremely stable	Aerosol
Tularemia	1–10 days	2 weeks moderate	Very stable	Aerosol
Q fever	14–26 days	Weeks?	Stable	Aerosol Sabotage
Viruses				
Smallpox	10–12 days	High	Very stable	Aerosol
Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis	1–6 days	Low	Unstable	Aerosol Vectors
Ebola	4–6 days	7–16 days fatal	Unstable	Aerosol Direct contact
Biological Toxins				
Botulinum toxins	Hours to days	High without treatment	Stable	Aerosol Sabotage
Staphylococcal enterotoxin B	1–6 days	Low	Stable	Aerosol Sabotage
Ricin	Hours to days	10–12 days fatal	Stable	Aerosol Sabotage
Tricothecene mycotoxins (T2)	2–4 hours	Moderate	Extremely stable	Aerosol Sabotage

Contact Phone Numbers:

- **CHEMTREC: 800-424-9300**
- National Response Center: 800-424-8802
- Center for Disease Control: 888-232-3228
- U.S. Public Health Service: 800-USA-NDMS
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Chemical Agents

AGENT	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	DECONTAMINATION	PERSISTENCE
Nerve Agents			
Tabun (GA)	Salivation Lacrimation	Remove contaminated clothing	1–2 days if heavy concentration
Sarin (GB)	Urination Defecation	Flush with a soap and water solution for patients	1–2 days will evaporate with water
Soman (GD)	Gastric disturbances	Flush with large amounts of a 5% bleach and water solution for objects	Moderate, 1–2 days
V Agents (VX)	Emesis		High, 1 week if heavy concentrate Ion as volatile as motor oil
Vesicants (Blister Agents)			
Sulfur Mustard (H)	Acts first as a cell irritant, then as a cell poison. Conjunctivitis, reddened skin, blisters, nasal irritation, inflammation of throat and lungs.	Remove contaminated clothing Flush with soap and water solution for patients. Flush with large amounts of a 5% bleach and water solution for objects	Very high, days to weeks
Distilled Mustard (HD)			
Nitrogen Mustard (HN 1,3)			
Mustargen (HN2)			Moderate
Lewisite (L)	Immediate pain with blisters later.		Days, rapid hydrolysis with humidity
Phosgene Oxime (CX)	Immediate pain with blisters later—necrosis equivalent to second and third degree burns		Low, 2 hours in soil
Chemical Asphyxiants (Blood agents)			
Hydrogen Cyanide (AC)	Cherry red skin or ~ 30% cyanosis.	Remove contaminated clothing.	Extremely volatile, 1-2 days
Cyanogen Chloride (CK)	Patients may appear to be gasping for air.	Flush with a soap and water solution for patients.	Rapidly evaporates and disperses
Arsine (SA)	Seizures prior to death. Effect is similar to asphyxiation, but is more sudden.	Flush with large amounts of 5% bleach and water solution for objects.	Low