

FIRST AID IN CASE OF CYANIDE ACCIDENTS

Symptoms include:

- Smell of bitter almond
- Redness of the cheeks
- Rapid breathing
- Dizziness/fainting
- Difficulty breathing

Slight exposure:

- Weakness, headache, confusion, nausea, vomiting, rapid pulse

Serious poisoning:

- Slow or gasping breath, spasms, unconsciousness

EMERGENCY FIRST AID:

Respiratory Tract Exposure

1. Move the person who has been exposed to hydrogen cyanide to a place with fresh air
2. Call an ambulance and mention that cyanide poisoning is involved
3. Administer 100% oxygen
4. Remember to administer cardiac massage if the victim lacks signs of life!

MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION MUST NOT BE ADMINISTERED!

When the ambulance arrives, possible further measures include additional oxygen and possible administration of hydroxycobalamin.

Eye Exposure

- Rinse the eye under running water for 5-10 minutes keeping the eye open

Skin Exposure

- Remove the contaminated clothing immediately
- Rinse the skin with plenty of water (shower) and wash with soap for 15 minutes

When administering the first aid, remember to use protective equipment yourself!

General emergency number: **112**

Poison Information Centre: (09) 471 977 (24-hour service)