

**Insert agency name**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Insert date)

For information, contact:  
(Insert contact information)

## Headline

(Insert information about the event)

Local authorities believe that people who were at (insert location) on (insert date and time) may have been exposed to the chemical phosgene. Public Health and other local authorities are investigating this incident.

Phosgene is a major industrial chemical used to make plastics and pesticides. At room temperature, phosgene is a poisonous gas that stays close to the ground and spreads rapidly. The gas may appear colorless or as a white to pale yellow cloud. At low concentrations, it has a pleasant odor of newly mown hay or green corn, but its odor may not be noticed by all people exposed. At high concentrations, the odor may be strong and unpleasant.

During or immediately after exposure to dangerous concentrations of phosgene, the following signs and symptoms may develop:

- Coughing;
- Burning sensation in the throat and eyes;
- Watery eyes;
- Blurred vision;
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath;
- Nausea and vomiting; and
- Skin contact can result in lesions similar to those from frostbite or burns.

Treatment for phosgene exposure consists of removing phosgene from the body as soon as possible and providing supportive medical care in a hospital setting. No antidote exists for phosgene. Exposed people should be observed for up to 48 hours, because it may take that long for symptoms to develop or reoccur.

If you believe you have been exposed, or if you have any of the symptoms associated with phosgene poisoning, please seek medical attention immediately.