

Insert agency name

Insert logo

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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 sulfur gas (better known as mustard gas). Public Health and other local authorities are investigating this incident.

Sulfur mustard is a type of chemical warfare agent. These kinds of agents are called vesicants or blistering agents, because they cause blistering of the skin and mucous membranes on contact. Sulfur mustard sometimes smells like garlic, onions, or mustard and sometimes has no odor. It can be a vapor (the gaseous form of a liquid), an oily-textured liquid, or a solid. Sulfur mustard can be clear to yellow or brown when it is in liquid or solid form.

Depending on the severity of the exposure, symptoms may not occur for 2 to 24 hours. Some people are more sensitive to sulfur mustard than are other people, and may have symptoms sooner. It is not usually fatal.

Sulfur mustard can have the following effects on specific parts of the body:

- **Skin:** redness and itching of the skin may occur 2 to 48 hours after exposure and change eventually to yellow blistering of the skin.
- **Eyes:** irritation, pain, swelling, and tearing may occur within 3 to 12 hours of a mild to moderate exposure. A severe exposure may cause symptoms within 1 to 2 hours and may include the symptoms of a mild or moderate exposure plus light sensitivity, severe pain, or blindness (lasting up to 10 days).
- **Respiratory tract:** runny nose, sneezing, hoarseness, bloody nose, sinus pain, shortness of breath, and cough within 12 to 24 hours of a mild exposure and within 2 to 4 hours of a severe exposure.
- **Digestive tract:** abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, nausea, and vomiting.

Exposure to sulfur mustard is treated by giving the victim supportive medical care to minimize the effects of the exposure.

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