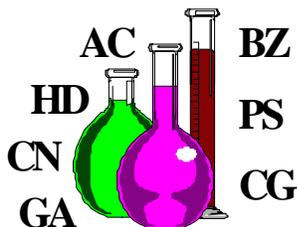


*U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine*



*General Facts About Blister Agent Phosgene Oxime  
(CX)*

218-37-1096

**General**

CX is an urticant producing instant, almost intolerable pain and local tissue destruction immediately on contact with skin and mucous membranes. It is toxic through inhalation, skin and eye exposure, and ingestion. Its rate of detoxification in the body is unknown.

**Synonyms**

Dichloroformoxime;  
CX.

**Description**

CX may appear as a colorless, low-melting point (crystalline) solid or as a liquid. It has a high vapor pressure, slowly decomposes at normal temperatures; it has a disagreeable, penetrating odor.

**Overexposure Effects**

CX vapors are violently irritating to the eyes. Very low concentrations can cause inflammation, lacrimation, and temporary blindness; higher concentrations can cause corneal corrosion and dimming of vision. Contact with the skin can cause skin lesions of the corrosive type. It is characterized by the appearance within 30 seconds of a central blanched area surrounded by an erythematous ring. Subcutaneous edema follows in about 15 minutes. After 24 hours, the central blanched area becomes necrotic and darkened, and an eschar is formed in a few days. Healing is accompanied by sloughing of the scab; itching may be present throughout healing.

**Emergency and First Aid  
Procedures**

Inhalation: remove from the source immediately; give artificial respiration if breathing has stopped; seek medical attention immediately.

Eye Contact: flush eyes immediately with copious amounts of water; seek medical attention immediately.

Skin Contact: remove victim from the source immediately; decontaminate the skin immediately by flushing with copious amounts of water to remove any phosgene oxime which has not yet reacted with tissue; seek medical attention immediately.

Ingestion: do not induce vomiting; seek medical attention immediately.

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