

Dioxin and health

What Dioxin effects

It affects the liver, kidneys, enzyme production, sex hormones, immunity system, heart, blood vessels, nervous system, brain, muscles, blood, skin. The two major threats of dioxin exposure are cancer and suppression of the immunity system that defends the body from infection and disease. It also causes birth defects.

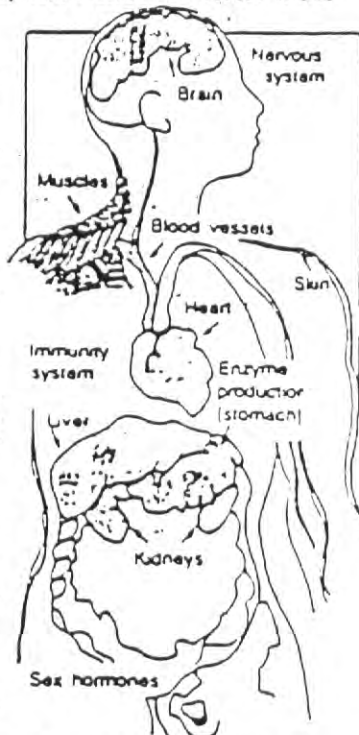
What is Dioxin

Dioxin is the most potent of all man-made chemicals. Only pure botulism and tetanus toxins are more deadly. There is no single test to diagnose the degree of exposure to the chemical which lodges in the body and is difficult to remove. Symptoms can include severe headaches, weight loss, abnormal fatigue, weakness, memory loss, blood clots, hepatitis, or an outbreak of pimply skin known as chloracne.

Precautions

Dioxin can be absorbed by the skin, inhaled with dust or swallowed.

Among the precautions persons living in a community tainted with dioxin are the following: Limit direct contact with soil and do not eat, drink or smoke while working in the area. Wash hands after any exposure to the soil, and limit any activity that might produce dioxin-tainted dust that can be inhaled. Wear boots that can be thoroughly washed off before leaving the area. Coveralls should be worn over clothing or wear disposable clothing. Shower and wash thoroughly each day after contact with dioxin-tainted soil or water with special attention to dirt under the fingernails.



Chicago Tribune Graphic, Sources: Cancer Council & Hepatitis and Carcinoma and Carcinoma Control

Table 2. Air Monitoring Data for 2,4,5-T in 28 State Monitoring Programs (1970-1972)

State	2,4,5-T ester monitored for	ng/m ³	ng/m ³	ng/m ³
		1970	1971	1972
Louisiana	Isopropyl ester	-	ND	1.9
Montana		ND	ND	0.8
New Mexico		-	ND	1.0
Idaho		ND	ND	1.7
Illinois	BOEE	ND	3.6	ND
Oregon		ND	0.5	ND
Tennessee		1.1	ND	ND
Tennessee	Isooctyl ester	ND	2.7	ND
Oklahoma		ND	14.6	ND

ND = not detected; ng/m³ = nanograms per cubic meter

Source: EPA 1978.