

METHYL BROMIDE

Methyl bromide is released into the air, making it capable of being readily breathed in¹, and entering through the skin.^{2 3} When used as a fumigant, some residue remains with the treated food.¹ It can also cling to clothing, gloves, etc.³

Methyl bromide is highly toxic to humans² and causes bodily injury to persons exposed.² At lower exposures it gives no odor warning so exposure can occur undetected by the person.² For this reason, monitoring devices and personal protective equipment are essential in areas of potential exposure.²

It is a delayed^{2 3} and severe³ lung irritant.^{2 3} It can also cause severe and prolonged neurologic damage.^{2 3 4 5} Persisting neurologic effects of exposure include impaired balance and gait,^{2 3 4 5} muscle twitching,² tremor,^{2 3 4} seizures,^{2 3} impaired coordination,^{2 3 4} numbness/tingling,² weakness,^{2 3} cognitive impairment² and impaired reflexes.^{3 5}

Neurologic damage can occur below levels that cause respiratory effects.² Brain and nerve damage can be permanent^{2 3} due to damage of brain and nerve cells.²

¹ Casarett and Doull's Toxicology: The Basic Science of Poisons, edited by CD Klassen, McGraw Hill, 1991.

² Hamilton and Hardy's Industrial Toxicology, edited by AJ Finkel, pp 242-243 John Wright PSG, Inc., Boston, MA, 1983.

³ Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisoning, US Environmental Protection Agency, 5th Edition, 1999, US EPA, Washington, D.C.

⁴ Neurotoxins in Clinical Practice, edited by Dr. CG Goetz. Medical and Scientific Books, Spectrum Publications, New York, NY, 1985.

⁵ Neurotoxicity of Industrial and Commercial Chemicals, Vol. I, edited by Dr. JL O'Donoghue, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 1985.