METHYL BROMIDE

Methyl bromide is released into the air, making it capable of being readily breathed in\(^1\), 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 humans\(^2\) 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 severe\(^3\) 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 impairment\(^2\) 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.\(^2\)

---