



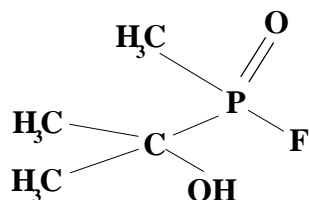
The Effects of Exposure to Certain Agents

Source: *Science* 85, October 1985

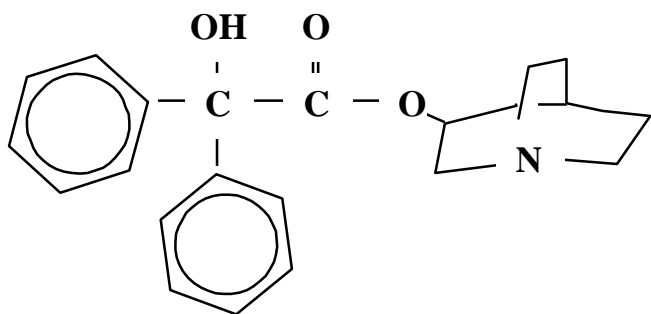
Chlorine: choking. Formula: Cl_2 .

Mustard: blistering, choking, blindness, slow death. Formula: $\text{ClCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-S-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$.

Nerve agents: inhibit normal action of enzyme cholinesterase, causing buildup of acetylcholine. This causes continuous nerve signals to muscles. Many times as lethal as mustard. One drop on skin can kill in 15 minutes. The formula for GB (Sarin, one of the nerve agents) is:



BZ: incapacitating agent (hallucinogen). Formula:



BZ is a powder. People sprayed with BZ become disoriented and will not obey simple commands. After a while, their behavior returns, for the most part, to normal.

Chemical agents are popularly called “war gases” or “poison gas,” probably because chlorine, the first agent used in WWI, is a gas. None of the agents currently used as chemical agents is a gas. Mustard and nerve agents are liquids at room temperature.