



## Indiana State Department of Health

# VX Nerve Agent at Newport Chemical Disposal Facility

### What is VX?

A common misconception is that VX is a gas. VX is a persistent, nonvolatile nerve agent that is primarily a liquid exposure hazard to the skin or eyes.

### Is VX located anywhere in Indiana?

VX is currently housed at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) in Newport, Indiana. It is safely stored in 2,000 pound heavy steel cylinders. The Newport Chemical Disposal Facility has been designed and constructed to safely destroy more than 1,000 tons of liquid nerve agent VX through a chemical neutralization process.

The Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, which is a military installation, opened in 1941 as the Wabash River Ordnance Works. Various warfare materials, including chemical agents, were manufactured at this site. In the late 1960s, the United States stopped production and shipment of chemical agent and weapons.

Newport employs numerous security measures to ensure the safety of the stockpile. The depot entrances are guarded 24 hours per day and the outer perimeter is secured by a single chain link barbed wire fence. The storage area is surrounded by double fences and equipped with intrusion detection devices and television monitors. In addition, personnel entering the area must follow strict safety and security procedures.

### Exposure to VX and Reducing the Risk



Go to Web site: [www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/vx/basics/facts.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/vx/basics/facts.asp).

#### For more information contact:



- Your healthcare provider
- Your local department of health
- **Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)**, Environmental Epidemiology Section at 317-351-7190 ext.260
- **Indiana Poison Center** toll-free at 1-800-222-1222
- **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)** toll-free at 1-888-422-8737
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** toll-free at 1-800-232-4636

You can also visit the following Web sites for information:

**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry** website at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** website at [www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/vx](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/vx)