CYANIDES, POISON

SODIUM AND POTASSIUM CYANIDE:
NaCN AND KCN

SOURCE, CHEM HOUSE OR SUPPLY. HOME SYNTHESIS.

FORM, KCN IS WHITE LUMPS OR CRYSTALS. NaCN IS A WHITE POWDER. HCN IS A VOLATILE COLORLESS LIQUID WITH THE ODOR OF BITTER ALMONDS.

HANDLING, AVOID INGESTION OR CONTACT WITH THE SKIN. DO NOT INHALE VAPORS, ESPECIALLY FROM HCN.

DEADLY DOSAGE, KCN OR NaCN IS 300mg WHICH IS .3 GRAMS. HCN IS 150mg WHICH IS .15 GRAMS.

SYMPTOMS, NAUSEA, SALIVATION, HEADACHE, RAPID AND DEEP RESPIRATION, COLLAPSE, CONVULSIONS AND DEATH. SPEED IS DEPENDENT ON DOSAGE, LARGER DOSES KILL FASTER. WHEN INGESTED THE ONSET IS DEPENDENT ON THE CONTENT OF THE STOMACH. IF IT IS EMPTY IT WILL KILL FASTER.

CYANIDES ARE OVERRATED FOR THEIR POWER. THOUGH THEY WORK, THEY ONLY WORK WHEN USED PROPERLY AND RULES ARE FOLLOWED.

One good breath of HCN causes almost instant unconsciousness, and death in 90 seconds. The fastest death on record for HCN is 10 seconds. KCN and NaCN usually cause death in less than 5 minutes. CN interferes with the enzyme which allows the cells to absorb oxygen, in effect causing suffocation on a cellular level. It also paralyzes the respiratory centers of the brain and constricts the blood vessels. During the 1950s the KGB employed at least 3 types of projectors that delivered an HCN mist. The weapon simulated a heart attack, but was not 100% undetectable. Few weapons are. Bogdan Stashinsky, a KGB assassin who used the HCN projector in 2 murders, described its effects as follows : "The effect of the poisonous vapors is such that the arteries which feed blood to the brain become paralyzed almost immediately. Absence of blood in the brain precipitates a normal paralysis of the brain or a heart attack, as a result of which the victim dies. The victim is clinically dead within 90 seconds after inhaling the poisonous vapors. After about 5 minutes the effect of the poison wears off entirely, permitting the arteries to return to their normal condition, leaving no trace of the killing agent which precipitated the paralysis or heart attack".

Both Goering and Himmler committed suicide by biting down on a fragile glass vial, 9 mm in diameter and 35 mm long, containing 1 cc of HCN. The vials were produced at Sachsenhausen concentration camp under SS auspices, and were housed in a small brass capsule made from 2 cartridge cases. Ironically, the HCN used was synthesized by one of the inmates, a Jewish doctor named Kramer. I can think of few jobs which would give as much satisfaction.

Cyanides are fairly easy to produce at home but have a tendency to deteriorate if not properly stored in airtight containers.

SODIUM CYANIDE PRODUCTION IN YOUR GARAGE.

THIS PROCESS WORKS WELL FOR POTASSIUM OR SODIUM CYANIDE PRODUCTION. JUST SUBSTITUTE POTASSIUM CARBONATE IN PLACE OF SODIUM CARBONATE.

THE PRODUCTION OF CYANIDE IS FAIRLY SIMPLE.
1. CONVERTING THE CARBONATE INTO FERROCYANIDE.
2. CONVERTING THE FERROCYANIDE INTO CYANIDE. THAT'S IT.

STEP ONE: SODIUM FERROCYANIDE.

YOU WILL NEED THREE MATERIALS: SODIUM CARBONATE (BUY AT POOL CHEMICAL SUPPLY STORE), CHARCOAL (POWDER), FERRIC (IRON) OXIDE, THIS IS PLAIN RUST. SCRAPE THE RUST OFF OF OLD IRON OR STEEL OBJECTS.

Production

1) Heat a crucible to full red heat by placing it on a stand and mounting a propane torch underneath. A number of items may be used as crucibles, such as a short length of steel pipe with cap, an old oil filter housing, or a small cast iron skillet. The latter is my personal choice.

2) Pour 10 parts (by weight) carbonate, 10 parts charcoal, and 5 parts rust into a jar and shake well to mix.

3) Pour the mix into the crucible. It will soon begin to redden and fuse, generating small jets of purple flame. Stir with a fork or similar implement until the flaming ceases.

4) Turn off the heat and let the crucible cool. Pour the contents into about ten times as much hot water and stir briskly. Filter through a coffee filter and discard the solids, which are mostly unabsorbed iron.

5) Boil the liquid in a pan on the stove until most of the water is gone. Transfer it to an iron skillet and heat until all of the water has evaporated. Stir with a metal spatula while this occurs to obtain a good grade of powdered ferrocyanide.

Step Two - Cyanide Production

1) Heat the crucible to full red heat.

2) Pour 8 parts ferrocyanide and 3 parts carbonate into a jar and shake to mix.

3) Pour the powders into the crucible. The contents will melt and bubble. After a short time it will separate into two portions - solid and liquid. When bubbling ceases, pour the liquid portion onto a smooth, hard surface such as a marble countertop. The cyanide will solidify and should be broken up while still warm and stored in an airtight container.

Note - It is a good idea to have a supply of cyanide antidote ready in case you are affected by the fumes. These are sodium thiosulfate, a common photographic chemical, and amyl nitrite, a heart drug. Butyl nitrite is available in some "sex" shops as a room odorant, and may be substituted for the amyl nitrite. A few hours before beginning production of the actual cyanide, take a capsule containing 500 mg of sodium thiosulfate. It is comparatively non-toxic, but may cause a small bout of "egg burps".

This is due to hydrogen sulfide gas being generated in the stomach. It is a bit unpleasant, but not dangerous. If you feel yourself developing the symptoms of cyanide poisoning, break an ampoule of amyl nitrite and inhale its contents. Seek medical attention. The foregoing does not mean that with the antidotes you can inhale fumes with impunity, only that you probably will not die from it. Even a sub-lethal dose of cyanide is extremely unpleasant. The best way to avoid this is to always make cyanide in a well-ventilated area.

PAGE 4 ILLUSTRATES HCN PRODUCTION.

Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) Production

HCN is the most toxic of the various cyanide compounds. Unfortunately, it also has its own special problems. The most apparent of these is that it is extremely volatile due to its low boiling point (79 ° F) An open container in a warm room will evaporate in a short period of time, filling the area with deadly fumes. Its other problem is that it has a tendency to deteriorate during storage. This can be prevented by adding phosphoric acid, in a proportion of 0.5 cc per liter of HCN. This acts as a stabilizer. It also helps to keep it stored in dark glass bottles in a cool place. You may wish to wear a gas mask, as an added precaution when making HCN, but be warned, one exposure to HCN will inactivate the filter. The next time you need it, it won't work. That is why the Soviets are believed to still have HCN shells in their inventory, even though it is not very effective outside of enclosed areas.

Production (Consult illustration)

1) Place 6 ounces of sodium cyanide into the gallon jug.

2) Prepare 80 fluid ounces of an acid/water mix in a separate container by carefully pouring 25 fluid ounces of concentrated sulfuric acid into 55 fluid ounces of distilled water. Add the acid slowly to avoid spattering and allow the mixture to cool.

3) Begin pouring the acid mix into the dropping funnel at a slow steady rate. When the addition is complete, plug the funnel.

The HCN vapors will pass into the condenser where they will become liquid. This liquid will drip into the cooled receptacle and solidify. HCN has a high freezing point (14° C). When all of the HCN has been generated, remove the flask from the ice bath, seal tightly, and allow to warm until it again becomes liquid. Add the phosphoric acid stabilizer and reseal.

NOTE - Use cool, but not very cold water in the condenser. Due to the high freezing point of HCN the use of cold water may cause it to crystallize in the condenser. This process is an improvement over the old method using ferrocyanide in that it results in a product of greater purity. Commercial HCN is currently produced by reacting ammonia and methane gases in an arc furnace. While extremely cheap and effective, it is not very suitable for small scale production.