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The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Note Verbal [No.GJ.24.2020], has the honour to transmit herewith the attachments related to the above-mentioned Note Verbal by the Chinese Government.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 28 August 2020



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA

**Health Information on Tear Gas on the Website
of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health**

Tear gas is a crowd dispersal agent and many chemicals can be used as tear gas.

In general, post-exposure symptoms to tear gas may include stinging and burning sensation to eyes and other mucous membranes, tearing, salivation, runny nose, tight chest, headache, nausea, burning sensation of skin, and erythema of skin. These symptoms will usually disappear within a short time after exposure to tear gas. Information or literature on the chronic health effect of tear gas is limited. However, some studies suggest that tear gas exposure could cause persistent physical and psychological illnesses, in particular for children, elderly and patients with respiratory diseases or allergic conditions. In general, health effects of tear gas depend on a number of factors such as the specific chemical composition of the tear gas, duration and dose of exposure, exposure route, health conditions of the individuals and the physical environment during exposure.

The public should leave the area affected by tear gas immediately. Skin exposed to tear gas should be washed thoroughly with water and soap and contaminated clothing should be changed. Eyes with discomfort should be irrigated with large amount of water or saline. For persons who are in an indoor environment when tear gas is being released nearby, they should close all doors and windows, turn off the air conditioner, and could seal the gaps over the doors and windows with wet towels.

Concerning the question on how long a lactating woman should wait before breastfeeding again after exposure to tear gas, there is no relevant international guideline available at the moment. According to advice from the Hospital Authority toxicologists, active chemicals in the tear gas will decompose when coming into contact with the mucous membranes. As such, the chance of these chemicals accumulating in the breast milk is minimal. As a precaution, the experts recommend lactating women to avoid breastfeeding for one to two hours after exposure to tear gas. The recommended waiting time before breastfeeding would depend on the type of chemical exposure and the distance of exposure which would increase the dilution effect. In addition, lactating women should change their clothes and clean their hair and skin thoroughly before contacting the infants or breastfeeding them with a view to preventing the infants from contacting any tear gas residual materials.

When cleaning the tear gas residual materials at home, disposable cleaning items are preferable. Suitable personal protective equipment such as masks, rubber gloves and rubber aprons should be worn. In general, surface with residual materials could be wiped by cloth soaked with soapy water but hot water should

not be used in order to avoid evaporating the materials. Also, residual materials should not be stirred up and therefore tools such as high pressure water jet and brooms, as well as electric fans, should not be used. The disposable cleaning items should be properly packed (such as in a sealed plastic bag) after cleaning and then disposed.

Individuals who had been exposed to tear gas with persistent symptoms should promptly consult healthcare professionals.

For advice on food safety relating to tear gas or other substances, please visit the website of the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (<https://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/index.html>) > Hot Topics > Advice to the Public on Contaminants and Food Safety.

載於衛生署衛生防護中心網頁 有關催淚煙的健康資訊

催淚煙是驅散人羣的裝備，而很多化學物可用作催淚煙。

接觸催淚煙後一般可出現的徵狀包括眼睛和其他黏膜有刺痛及灼熱感覺、流眼水、流涎、流鼻水、胸悶、頭痛、噁心、皮膚有灼熱感覺及紅斑等等。這些徵狀通常會在接觸後的短時間內消失。現時就催淚煙對人體長期健康影響的資料及文獻有限，但有研究指催淚煙可對生理和心理健康有持續的影響，特別在兒童、長者、患呼吸系統疾病或有敏感情況的人士等。一般而言，催淚煙對人體健康的影響視乎多種因素，例如催淚煙內的具體化學成份、所暴露的時間和劑量、暴露途徑、個人的健康狀況，以及暴露時所處的環境等。

市民如果身處有催淚煙的地方應盡快離開。皮膚接觸到催淚煙後亦應用大量清水和肥皂徹底清洗，並更換受污染的衣物，而眼睛若有不適可用大量的清水或生理鹽水沖洗。如身處於室內地方而附近有催淚煙發放，應關閉所有門窗，並關上空調，及可用濕布封上門窗隙罅。

就哺乳媽媽接觸催淚煙後要隔多久才能餵哺母乳，現時並沒有相關的國際指引。根據醫院管理局毒理學專家的意見，催淚氣體中含有的活性化學物質會在接觸到黏膜時分解，因此這些化學物質在母乳中累積的機會甚微。專家建議基於謹慎起見，在接觸催淚氣體後一至兩小時應避免母乳餵哺，這建議時間視乎暴露於化學物質及因暴露時距離增加而有稀釋結果而定。此外，在接觸嬰兒或進行母乳餵哺前，哺乳媽媽應更換衣服及徹底清洗頭髮和皮膚，避免嬰兒有機會接觸到任何催淚氣體的殘留物。

在家居清潔催淚煙殘留物時，盡量使用一次性清潔物品，並戴上適當的個人防護裝備，例如口罩、橡膠手套、膠圍裙等。受污染的表面一般可使用肥皂水浸濕的布抹，而不應使用熱水以免令殘留物蒸發。同時，要避免重新揚起殘留微粒，因此，不應使用高壓水槍及掃把等工具，亦不應使用電風扇。在清潔完成後，應把一次性清潔物品妥善包妥後(例如放進密封的膠袋)才棄置。

如有任何人士因接觸催淚煙霧而持續感到不適，應諮詢專業醫護人員的意見。

有關催淚煙或其他污染物與食物安全的建議，市民可瀏覽食物環境衛生署食物安全中心網頁 (https://www.cfs.gov.hk/tc_chi/index.html) > 熱門話題 > 給市民有關污染物與食物安全的建議。