

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

**SUBJECT: 900.14**

**4/12**

**MEDICAL EMERGENCIES:**

**ORIGINAL ISSUE**

**CYANIDE POISONING**

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Cyanide poisoning can occur if cyanide is ingested or the patient is exposed through an industrial exposure. Cyanide is also frequently present in smoke as a byproduct of combustion. Cyanide poisoning should be considered in any patient who is significantly symptomatic from smoke exposure., especially if comatose or in cardiac arrest.

**Signs and Symptoms:**

- Altered mental status
- Malaise, weakness, flu-like symptoms
- Dyspnea
- GI Symptoms, nausea, vomiting, cramping
- Dizziness
- Seizures
- Syncope
- Reddened skin
- Chest pain

**Treatment:**

- Consider other more common causes of altered mental status and dyspnea.
- If the patient has been exposed to smoke consider the need for early airway control as well as the possibility of associated trauma and carbon monoxide exposure.
- Remove the patient from any potential toxic environment
- Administer high flow oxygen and control airway as needed. Pulse oximetry may not be accurate.
- Obtain IV access and attach cardiac monitor
- Administer Hydroxocobalamin 70 mg/kg IV / IO (maximum 5 g IV / IO)
- Monitor for hypotension.