

If there is a Spill in Your School




 STAY CALM

 DO NOT TOUCH
MERCURY



 TELL A
TEACHER

 AVOID THE
SPILL

24-hour Emergency Contacts

If someone's life is in immediate danger, **please call 911.**

**For spill clean-up in
Iowa:**

(515) 281-8694

Kansas:

(785) 296-1679

Missouri:

(573) 634-2436

Nebraska:

(402) 326-0231

EPA:

(913) 281-0991

For help with someone exposed to mercury, please call the **National Poison Center** at (800) 222-1222.

For more information about mercury exposure and health effects, call the **Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit** at (800) 421-9916.

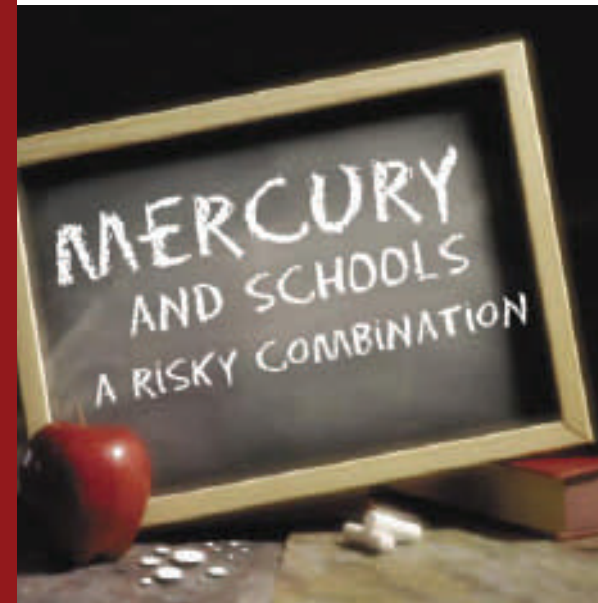
U.S. EPA - Region 7

901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

Phone: (800) 223-0425
www.epa.gov/region7
www.epa.gov/mercury



Region 7



This is a true story. It could happen in your school or your community.

A 14-year-old student was intrigued by a mercury demonstration during science class. Without the teacher's knowledge, she took the jar of silvery liquid and shared it with her friends, who played with the mercury in school hallways and classrooms...



...During a field trip, they also took the mercury to a bowling alley, poured it into bowling ball finger holes and rolled the balls down the alley. The students took the mercury home, put it in various containers, then brought it back to school and continued to play with it. In the end, 88 people had to be decontaminated, as well as the bowling alley, the school, a school bus and a home. School was closed for three days. Several students were hospitalized for medical monitoring. Contaminated furniture, electronics, clothing and shoes were discarded as hazardous waste. Six agencies were involved in the cleanup that cost in excess of \$223,000.

What is Mercury?

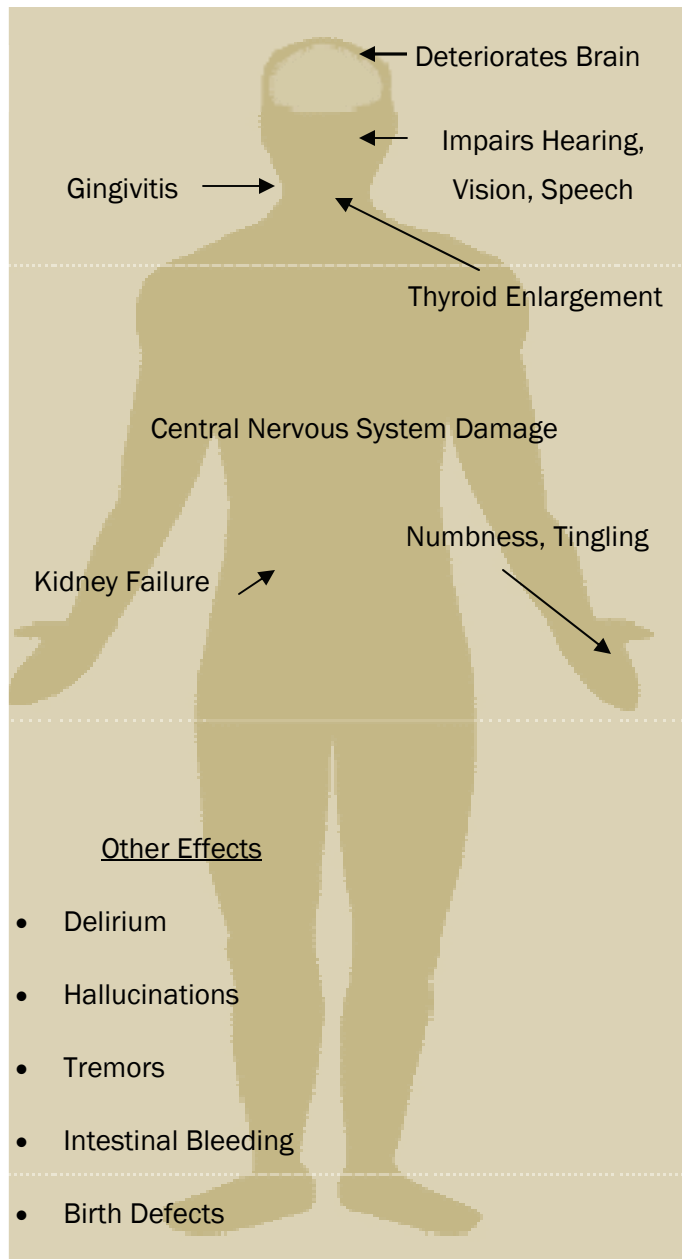
Mercury is a naturally occurring metal that has several forms.

Elemental mercury poses a potential health risk for schools.

It is a silver liquid that releases a colorless, odorless toxic vapor.



Mercury Exposure is a Health Concern



Mercury Sources in Schools

Instruments containing mercury can be found anywhere on school property:

Nurse's office, science rooms, gymnasiums, art rooms & boiler rooms.

Liquid mercury is used in:

Thermometers

Thermostats

Blood Pressure Monitors

Humidity Hygrometers



Test Your Mercury Knowledge

1. Mercury is found in :

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A) Pressure Gauges | C) School labs |
| B) Fluorescent lights | D) All of the above |

2. Mercury poisoning can cause:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| A) Birth Defects | C) Brain Damage |
| B) Kidney damage | D) All of the above |

3. What is another name for Mercury?

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| A) Quicksilver | C) Space Gro |
| B) Gray Magic | D) Malicious Merc |

4. Liquid Mercury is MOST dangerous :

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A) On your skin | C) Inside a thermometer |
| B) If you breathe its vapors | D) If you swallow it |