

SODIUM CYANIDE is another predacide used in Alberta targeting wolves and coyotes.

Sodium Cyanide reacts with carbon dioxide or acids to form hydrogen cyanide gas which prevents cells of the body from using oxygen. Similar to the others, it causes violent and painful convulsions, severe anxiety and loss of bodily control. Cyanide attacks the heart, circulatory system and central nervous system as well as the liver and kidneys. Eventually a victim will die from asphyxia/suffocation due to respiratory failure.

A recent publication by Wild Wolf Press titled *ALBERTA'S WILD WOLVES a call from the wild* describes this potent poison in the following way:

"In Alberta cyanide is used in a mechanical device called an M-44. A small cylinder containing the deadly dose of sodium cyanide is driven into the ground on a stake, and spring-loaded to deliver a deadly dose of sodium cyanide when an animal licks, bites, or pulls on the fabric covering of the cylinder which sprays cyanide into the animal's mouth and face which turns into gas in the throat or stomach. The ejector can spray the cyanide up to 5 feet.

*Since cattle, horses and other livestock will lick or step on the device; they too are risk, as are pets and people who investigate not knowing the danger. A poisoned animal can **die within minutes 15 to 20 minutes or as long as 8 hours** (78.74). **The victim suffers:** excitement/panic, loss of balance, and will stagger, struggle and collapse. Weakness, rapid breathing which may stop and start. Foaming at the mouth, excessive tears, loss of bladder and bowel control. Vomiting (especially in pigs), bright red mucus membranes as in the case of strychnine. Convulsions and myocardial hypoxia ensue, with the animal eventually dying due to respiratory failure -severe asphyxia/suffocation."*

Sodium Cyanide can kill all warm-blooded animals, including humans. *"It is extremely poisonous if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin"* (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Food Safety and Technology Division Animal Health and Assurance Branch Inspection and Investigation Section. 2016).

Aside from short-term health effects from human exposure to sodium cyanide (including death), there are also serious long term health effects that come with exposure to this toxin.