

## **Education/Pearls:**

Smoke inhalation can cause exposure to a variety of dangerous substances, including cyanide (CN), carbon monoxide (CO), and other chemicals. Cynanide Toxicity:

- HCN is developed from an incomplete combustion of any material containing nitrogen such as plastic, vinyl, wool, or silk.
- HCN can be produced when there are only burning embers.
- CN is a small lipid soluble molecule and penetration into cells is rapid.

**Hydroxocobalamin** treatment is indicated for patients with evidence of severe cyanide toxicity. This medication allows for harmless excretion of CN.

- Side effects are red coloring of skin and urine, urticaria (hives), rarely anaphylaxis. It may also cause tachycardia and hypertension.
- <u>Administration of hydroxocobalamin must not delay any other basic life support such as securing of</u> <u>the airways, cardiovascular support, or oxygen administration.</u>

## Severe Cyanide Toxicity:

Dyspnea, respiratory failure, hypotension, dysrrhythmias, chest pain, altered mental status

- Administration instructions:
  - Reconstitute: Place the vial in an upright position. Add 200 mL of 0.9% Sodium Chloride injection to the vial using the transfer spike. Fill to the line. (LR and dextrose are also compatible)
  - Mix: The vial should be repeatedly inverted or rocked, not shaken, for at least 60 seconds prior to infusion.
  - Infuse Vial: Use vented intravenous tubing, hang and infuse over 15 minutes. Will need to use push pull method if administering through an IO.
- Pediatrics (70 mg/kg) is the starting dose.
  May round up to the nearest 1/4 of a bottle.

CPAP can be utilized in patients with evidence of inhalational injury to enhance oxygen delivery; however, the patient must be breathing spontaneously to tolerate CPAP.

