

MOGAS (MOTOR GASOLINE)

EXPOSURE IN NAVY AVIATION:

SHORT- AND LONG-TERM HEALTH EFFECTS

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MOGAS (motor gasoline) is used in certain Navy aviation support equipment, small engines, ground vehicles, generators, and flight line tools. Aviation personnel may be exposed during:

- Fuel handling and transfer
- Spill response and cleanup
- Maintenance of fuel tanks, lines, and engines
- Inhalation of vapors in enclosed shops or hangars
- Skin contact during fueling or equipment repair

MOGAS contains:

- Aliphatic hydrocarbons
- Aromatic hydrocarbons (benzene, toluene, xylene)
- Additives (ethanol, detergents, corrosion inhibitors)
- Known carcinogenic trace compounds (benzene)

Exposure occurs via inhalation, skin absorption, and accidental ingestion or vapor exposure.

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SHORT-TERM (ACUTE) HEALTH EFFECTS

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1. Respiratory Symptoms

Inhalation of gasoline vapors may cause:

- Burning throat or nasal irritation
- Coughing
- Shortness of breath

- Headaches

Symptoms are worse in enclosed hangars or fuel cell spaces.

2. Central Nervous System (CNS) Depression

Gasoline vapors have strong neurological effects:

- Dizziness
- Lightheadedness
- Confusion
- Slowed reaction time
- Impaired coordination
- Fatigue

High concentrations may cause fainting or disorientation.

3. Skin and Eye Irritation

Gasoline dissolves natural skin oils, causing:

- Redness
- Dryness and cracking
- Chemical dermatitis
- Eye irritation or tearing from vapor exposure

4. Gastrointestinal Effects

Exposure may cause:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Chemical taste
- Risk of aspiration pneumonitis if ingested

5. Fire and Explosion Hazards

Gasoline vapors ignite easily and intensify secondary exposure risks.

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LONG-TERM (CHRONIC) HEALTH EFFECTS

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1. Cancer Risk (Primarily from Benzene)

MOGAS contains benzene, a **known human carcinogen**.

Long-term exposure increases risk of:

- Leukemia (especially AML)
- Lymphoma
- Blood and bone marrow disorders

2. Chronic Neurological Effects

Repeated exposure may lead to:

- Memory problems
- Difficulty concentrating
- Chronic headaches
- Mood disturbances (anxiety, irritability)
- Sleep disruption

3. Respiratory Problems

Chronic exposure can contribute to:

- Persistent cough
- Airway inflammation
- Worsening asthma
- Reduced lung function

4. Blood and Bone Marrow Effects

Benzene exposure may cause:

- Anemia

- Reduced platelet count
- Immune suppression
- Bone marrow dysfunction

5. Skin Conditions

Long-term contact can lead to:

- Chronic dermatitis
- Skin thickening or cracking
- Chemical sensitivity

6. Liver and Kidney Stress

Chronic hydrocarbon exposure may contribute to:

- Elevated liver enzymes
- Kidney irritation or reduced filtration function

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NAVY AVIATION ROLES AT HIGHEST RISK

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- Aviation Support Equipment Technicians (AS/ASE)
- Aviation Machinist's Mates (AD)
- Aviation Structural Mechanics (AM)
- Aviation Boatswain's Mates (ABF/ABE)
- Fuel system and spill response teams
- Ground vehicle and equipment maintenance personnel

Enclosed shops, engine bays, and fuel storage areas significantly increase vapor concentration.

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VA DISABILITY CLAIM WRITEUP EXAMPLE

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****Statement in Support of Claim: MOGAS Exposure – Navy Aviation****

I am submitting this statement in support of my claim for service-connected disability due to long-term occupational exposure to MOGAS (motor gasoline) during my service in the United States Navy.

From [YEAR] to [YEAR], I served as an Aviation [RATE/MOS] assigned to the USS [SHIP] and various naval air stations. My duties frequently involved handling, transferring, or cleaning up MOGAS fuel used in support equipment, small engines, and ground vehicles. I often worked in enclosed shops, hangars, and maintenance bays where gasoline vapors accumulated, especially during fueling operations or fuel leak repairs.

Personal protective equipment such as respirators, proper gloves, and ventilation were not consistently provided or enforced. As a result, I regularly inhaled gasoline vapors and experienced immediate symptoms including dizziness, headaches, throat irritation, nausea, and fatigue. I also had routine skin contact with MOGAS, which caused dryness, redness, and irritation.

Since separating from the Navy, I have experienced chronic symptoms consistent with long-term hydrocarbon and benzene exposure, including persistent headaches, memory and concentration problems, chronic fatigue, respiratory irritation, and abnormal bloodwork. Medical evaluations have documented [RESPIRATORY CONDITION / BLOOD DISORDER / NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS / OTHER], conditions associated with repeated exposure to gasoline vapors and benzene-containing fuels.

Given the frequency and duration of my exposure, the lack of adequate protective measures, and the onset of symptoms after my military service, I believe my current health conditions are directly related to occupational exposure to MOGAS during Navy aviation operations. I respectfully request that the VA recognize these disabilities as service-connected.

Signed,

[Veteran Name]

[Date]