

The Use of White Phosphorus: Technical Overview and Its Impacts on Humans and the Environment. Additionally, inhalation of WP smoke can damage the respiratory system, leading to severe breathing difficulties, lung irritation, and, in extreme cases, fatal pulmonary complications. Prolonged exposure to white phosphorus can result in chronic health issues, including organ failure, due to the chemical's ability to enter the bloodstream. The smoke produced consists of phosphorus pentoxide, which reacts with moisture to form phosphoric acid, further aggravating its harmful effects. Despite its legitimate military purposes, the characteristics of WP make it highly controversial. However, the use of white phosphorus raises significant ethical, humanitarian, and environmental concerns, particularly when deployed in densely populated civilian areas like Gaza.

Technical Aspects of White Phosphorus: White phosphorus exists in various forms, but its military use primarily exploits its ability to ignite spontaneously in air. WP is delivered via artillery shells, bombs, or mortars, and it disperses over a wide area upon detonation. Such burns are extremely difficult to treat because phosphorus particles can reignite upon exposure to oxygen, requiring constant monitoring and debridement in medical settings. Its incendiary effects can lead to indiscriminate harm, violating international norms, particularly when used in civilian areas where damage is uncontrollable.

White phosphorus (WP) is a chemical substance used in military operations as an incendiary agent and smoke-producing compound. Its applications include illuminating battlefields, obscuring visibility for enemy forces, and functioning as a weapon to cause damage. It ignites upon contact with oxygen, producing thick white smoke and generating intense heat that can exceed 815°C. Direct contact with WP causes chemical burns that can penetrate deep into tissue, sometimes reaching bone.

Impact on Humans: The effects of white phosphorus on human health are severe and often life-threatening. It burns until the oxygen supply is exhausted or the material is completely consumed.