

TITLE:[Toxic gases from combustion.

AUTHOR/S:[Greenleaf, Stephen

SOURCE:["Impact" - Novel about aviation crash litigation.

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ABSTRACT:["When urethane burns, does it give off gases? Yes. Name them. Well, there's acrolein, hydrogen cyanide, carbon monoxide, sulphuric acid ... Phosgene? That, too. Phosgene is so toxic it's used in chemical-warfare weapons, is it not? I wouldn't know. Well, there's no question that each of those gases is toxic to humans, is there? Yes they are, depending on the density. And the combination of those gases is highly toxic? Yes. The cushions and cabin materials aren't the only things that give off toxic fumes in a cabin fire, are they? No, many of the materials the passengers bring on board contribute as well. For example, a burning wool overcoat can emit enough cyanide to kill seven people."]

Quote from "Impact" by Stephen Greenleaf. p. 312