Chlorine Monoxide Encyclopedia Article

Chlorine Monoxide

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Chlorine Monoxide

One of two oxides of **chlorine**, either Cl_2O or ClO. When used in **environmental science**,it usually refers to the latter. Chlorine monoxide (ClO) is formed in the **atmosphere** when free chlorine atoms react with **ozone**. In the reaction, ozone is converted to normal, diatomic oxygen (O_2). This process appears to be a major factor in the destruction of ozone in the **stratosphere** observed by scientists in recent years. The most important sources of chlorine by which this reaction is initiated appear to be **chlorofluorocarbons** and other synthetic chlorine compounds released by human activities.