# GUIDE Gases - Toxic and/or Corrosive 123

# **POTENTIAL HAZARDS**

#### HEALTH

- TOXIC; may be fatal if inhaled or absorbed through skin.
- · Vapors may be irritating.
- Contact with gas or liquefied gas may cause burns, severe injury and/or frostbite.
- Fire will produce irritating, corrosive and/or toxic gases.
- · Runoff from fire control may cause pollution.

#### FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- · Some may burn but none ignite readily.
- · Vapors from liquefied gas are initially heavier than air and spread along ground.
- Cylinders exposed to fire may vent and release toxic and/or corrosive gas through pressure relief devices.
- · Containers may explode when heated.
- · Ruptured cylinders may rocket.

# **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- CALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE Telephone Number on Shipping Paper first. If Shipping Paper not available or no answer, refer to appropriate telephone number listed on the inside back cover.
- As an immediate precautionary measure, isolate spill or leak area for at least 100 meters (330 feet) in all directions.
- · Keep unauthorized personnel away.
- Stay upwind, uphill and/or upstream.
- Many gases are heavier than air and will spread along ground and collect in low or confined areas (sewers, basements, tanks).
- Ventilate closed spaces before entering.

#### PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Wear positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Wear chemical protective clothing that is specifically recommended by the manufacturer. It may provide little or no thermal protection.
- Structural firefighters' protective clothing provides limited protection in fire situations ONLY; it is not
  effective in spill situations where direct contact with the substance is possible.

#### **EVACUATION**

#### llig2

See Table 1 - Initial Isolation and Protective Action Distances for highlighted materials. For non-highlighted materials, increase, in the downwind direction, as necessary, the isolation distance shown under "PUBLIC SAFETY".

#### Fire

If tank, rail car or tank truck is involved in a fire, ISOLATE for 800 meters (1/2 mile) in all directions; also, consider initial evacuation for 800 meters (1/2 mile) in all directions.



In Canada, an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) may be required for this product. Please consult the shipping document and/or the ERAP Program Section (page 391).

GUIDE

# **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

# FIRE

#### Small Fire

Dry chemical or CO<sub>2</sub>.

# Large Fire

- · Water spray, fog or regular foam.
- · Do not get water inside containers.
- · Move containers from fire area if you can do it without risk.
- · Damaged cylinders should be handled only by specialists.

#### Fire involving Tanks

- Fight fire from maximum distance or use unmanned hose holders or monitor nozzles.
- Cool containers with flooding quantities of water until well after fire is out.
- Do not direct water at source of leak or safety devices; icing may occur.
- Withdraw immediately in case of rising sound from venting safety devices or discoloration of tank.
- ALWAYS stay away from tanks engulfed in fire.

# SPILL OR LEAK

- Fully encapsulating, vapor-protective clothing should be worn for spills and leaks with no fire.
- · Do not touch or walk through spilled material.
- · Stop leak if you can do it without risk.
- If possible, turn leaking containers so that gas escapes rather than liquid.
- · Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.
- Use water spray to reduce vapors or divert vapor cloud drift. Avoid allowing water runoff to contact spilled material.
- Do not direct water at spill or source of leak.
- Isolate area until gas has dispersed.

# FIRST AID

- Ensure that medical personnel are aware of the material(s) involved and take precautions to protect themselves.
- · Move victim to fresh air.
- Call 911 or emergency medical service.
- · Give artificial respiration if victim is not breathing.
- Do not use mouth-to-mouth method if victim ingested or inhaled the substance; give artificial respiration with the aid of a pocket mask equipped with a one-way valve or other proper respiratory medical device.
- Administer oxygen if breathing is difficult.
- · Remove and isolate contaminated clothing and shoes.
- · In case of contact with liquefied gas, thaw frosted parts with lukewarm water.
- In case of contact with substance, immediately flush skin or eyes with running water for at least 20 minutes.
- Keep victim calm and warm.
- Keep victim under observation.
- · Effects of contact or inhalation may be delayed.