

# GUIDE INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

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### POTENTIAL HAZARDS

#### HEALTH

- Inhalation or contact with substance may cause infection, disease or death.
- Category A Infectious Substances (UN2814, UN2900 or UN3549) are more hazardous, or are in a more hazardous form, than infectious substances shipped as Category B Biological Substances (UN3373) or clinical waste/medical waste (UN3291).
- Runoff from fire control or dilution water may cause environmental contamination.
- Damaged packages containing solid CO<sub>2</sub> as a refrigerant may produce water or frost from condensation of air. Do not touch this liquid as it could be contaminated by the contents of the parcel.
- Contact with solid CO<sub>2</sub> may cause burns, severe injury and/or frostbite.

#### FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- Some of these materials may burn, but none ignite readily.
- Some may be transported in flammable liquids.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

- **CALL 911. Then call emergency response telephone number on shipping paper.** If shipping paper not available or no answer, refer to appropriate telephone number listed on the inside back cover.
- Keep unauthorized personnel away.
- Stay upwind, uphill and/or upstream.
- Consult the shipping paper to identify the substance involved.

#### PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Use judgement based on the amount of material present and the possible routes of exposure to select protective clothing.
- Wear appropriate respiratory protection, such as fit-tested N95 respirator (at minimum), powered air purifying respirator (PAPR), or positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Wear full coverage body protection (e.g., Tyvek suit), faceshield, and disposable fluid-resistant gloves (e.g., latex or nitrile).
- Wear appropriate footwear; disposable shoe covers can be worn to protect against contamination.
- Puncture- and cut-resistant gloves should be worn over fluid-resistant gloves if sharp objects (e.g., broken glass, needles) are present.
- Wear insulated gloves (e.g. cryo gloves) over fluid-resistant gloves when handling dry ice (UN1845).
- Decontaminate protective clothing and personal protective equipment after use and before cleaning or disposal with a compatible chemical disinfectant (e.g., 10% solution of bleach, equivalent to 0.5% sodium hypochlorite) or through a validated decontamination technology (e.g., autoclave) or process.
- Structural firefighters' protective clothing provides thermal protection **but only limited chemical protection**.
- For more information on decontamination, consult p. 362

#### EVACUATION

##### Immediate precautionary measure

- Isolate spill or leak area for at least 25 meters (75 feet) in all directions.



In Canada, an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) may be required for this product. Please consult the shipping paper and/or the ERAP Program Section (page 390).

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**FIRE****Small Fire**

- Dry chemical, soda ash, lime or sand.

**Large Fire**

- Use extinguishing agent suitable for type of surrounding fire.
- Do not scatter spilled material with high-pressure water streams.
- If it can be done safely, move undamaged containers away from the area around the fire.

**SPILL OR LEAK**

- Do not touch or walk through spilled material.
- Do not touch damaged containers or spilled material unless wearing appropriate protective clothing.
- Absorb with earth, sand or other non-combustible material.
- Cover damaged package or spilled material with absorbent material such as paper towel, towel or rag to absorb any liquids, and, beginning from outside edge, pour liquid bleach or other chemical disinfectant to saturate. Keep wet with liquid bleach or other disinfectant.
- **DO NOT CLEAN-UP OR DISPOSE OF, EXCEPT UNDER SUPERVISION OF A SPECIALIST.**

**FIRST AID**

- Call 911 or emergency medical service.
- Ensure that medical personnel are aware of the material(s) involved and take precautions to protect themselves.
- Move victim to a safe isolated area if it can be done safely.

**CAUTION: Victim may be a source of contamination.**

- Remove and isolate contaminated clothing and shoes.
- In case of contact with substance, immediately flush eyes with running water and wash skin with soap and water for at least 20 minutes. Take caution not to break the skin.
- Effects of exposure (inhalation, ingestion, injection/inoculation or skin contact) to substance may be delayed. Victim should consult medical professional for information regarding symptoms and treatment.
- **For further assistance, contact your local Poison Control Center.**