# GUIDE HALOGENATED SOLVENTS

# **POTENTIAL HAZARDS**

# HEALTH

- · Toxic by ingestion.
- Vapors may cause dizziness or suffocation.
- Exposure in an enclosed area may be very harmful.
- Contact may irritate or burn skin and eyes.
- Fire may produce irritating and/or toxic gases.
- Runoff from fire control or dilution water may cause pollution.

# FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- Some of these materials may burn, but none ignite readily.
- Most vapors are heavier than air.
- Air/vapor mixtures may explode when ignited.
- · Container may explode in heat of fire.

# **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 50 meters (150 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.
- · Structural firefighters' protective clothing will only provide limited protection.

# **EVACUATION**

## Large Spill

Consider initial downwind evacuation for at least 100 meters (330 feet).

#### 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.

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# **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

## FIRE

#### Small Fire

Dry chemical, CO<sub>a</sub> or water spray.

## Large Fire

- Dry chemical, CO<sub>2</sub>, alcohol-resistant foam or water spray.
- Move containers from fire area if you can do it without risk.
- Dike fire-control water for later disposal; do not scatter the material.

# Fire involving Tanks or Car/Trailer Loads

- · 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.
- 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

- ELIMINATE all ignition sources (no smoking, flares, sparks or flames in immediate area).
- Stop leak if you can do it without risk.

# Small Liquid Spill

· Pick up with sand, earth or other non-combustible absorbent material.

## Large Spill

- Dike far ahead of liquid spill for later disposal.
- · Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.

## 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.
- · Administer oxygen if breathing is difficult.
- · Remove and isolate contaminated clothing and shoes.
- In case of contact with substance, immediately flush skin or eyes with running water for at least 20 minutes.
- For minor skin contact, avoid spreading material on unaffected skin.
- · Wash skin with soap and water.
- Keep victim calm and warm.

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