# GUIDE GASES - INERT

## **POTENTIAL HAZARDS**

### HEALTH

- Vapors may cause dizziness or asphyxiation without warning.
- Vapors from liquefied gas are initially heavier than air and spread along ground.

## FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- · Non-flammable gases.
- · 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).
- 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

- Use extinguishing agent suitable for type of surrounding fire.
- 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

- Do not touch or walk through spilled material.
- · Stop leak if you can do it without risk.
- 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.
- If possible, turn leaking containers so that gas escapes rather than liquid.
- · Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.
- · Allow substance to evaporate.
- Ventilate the area.

#### 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.
- · Keep victim calm and warm.

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