# GUIDE SUBSTANCES - WATER-REACTIVE (EMITTING FLAMMABLE GASES)

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

## FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- · Produce flammable gases on contact with water.
- · May ignite on contact with water or moist air.
- Some react vigorously or explosively on contact with water.
- · May be ignited by heat, sparks or flames.
- · May re-ignite after fire is extinguished.
- Some are transported in highly flammable liquids.
- · Runoff may create fire or explosion hazard.

## HEALTH

- Inhalation or contact with vapors, substance or decomposition products may cause severe injury or death.
- May produce corrosive solutions on contact with water.
- Fire will produce irritating, corrosive and/or toxic gases.
- Runoff from fire control or dilution water may cause environmental contamination.

# **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.
- Ventilate closed spaces before entering, but only if properly trained and equipped.

## PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Wear positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Wear chemical protective clothing that is specifically recommended by the manufacturer when there is NO RISK OF FIRE.
- Structural firefighters' protective clothing provides thermal protection but only limited chemical protection.

## EVACUATION

## Immediate precautionary measure

 Isolate spill or leak area in all directions for at least 50 meters (150 feet) for liquids and at least 25 meters (75 feet) for solids.

## Spill

- For highlighted materials: see Table 1 Initial Isolation and Protective Action Distances.
- For non-highlighted materials: increase the immediate precautionary measure distance, in the downwind direction, as necessary.

## 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 paper and/or the ERAP Program Section (page 390).

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# **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

## FIRE

· DO NOT USE WATER OR FOAM.

## **Small Fire**

· Dry chemical, soda ash, lime or sand.

## Large Fire

- DRY sand, dry chemical, soda ash or lime or withdraw from area and let fire burn.
- If it can be done safely, move undamaged containers away from the area around the fire.

## Fire Involving Metals or Powders (Aluminum, Lithium, Magnesium, etc.)

 Use dry chemical, DRY sand, sodium chloride powder, graphite powder or class D extinguishers; in addition, for Lithium you may use Lith-X® powder or copper powder. Also, see GUIDE 170.

## Fire Involving Tanks or Car/Trailer Loads

- Fight fire from maximum distance or use unmanned master stream devices or monitor nozzles.
- Do not get water inside containers.
- 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) from immediate area.
- · 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 GET WATER on spilled substance or inside containers.

## Small Spill

- Cover with DRY earth, DRY sand or other non-combustible material followed with plastic sheet to minimize spreading or contact with rain.
- Dike for later disposal; do not apply water unless directed to do so.

## Powder Spill

- Cover powder spill with plastic sheet or tarp to minimize spreading and keep powder dry.
- 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 fresh air if it can be done safely.
- · 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, wipe from skin immediately; flush skin or eyes with running water for at least 20 minutes.
- Keep victim calm and warm.

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