GUIDE 153  Substances - Toxic and/or Corrosive (Combustible)

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

HEALTH

• **TOXIC**: inhalation, ingestion or skin contact with material may cause severe injury or death.
• Contact with molten substance may cause severe burns to skin and eyes.
• Avoid any skin contact.
• Effects of contact or inhalation may be delayed.
• Fire may produce irritating, corrosive and/or toxic gases.
• Runoff from fire control or dilution water may be corrosive and/or toxic and cause environmental contamination.

FIRE OR EXPLOSION

• Combustible material: may burn but does not ignite readily.
• When heated, vapors may form explosive mixtures with air: indoors, outdoors and sewers explosion hazards.
• Those substances designated with a (P) may polymerize explosively when heated or involved in a fire.
• Contact with metals may evolve flammable hydrogen gas.
• Containers may explode when heated.
• Runoff may pollute waterways.
• Substance may be transported in a molten form.

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).
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FIRE

Small Fire
• Dry chemical, CO₂ or water spray.

Large Fire
• Dry chemical, CO₂, alcohol-resistant foam or water spray.
• If it can be done safely, move undamaged containers away from the area around the fire.
• Dike runoff from fire control for later disposal.

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 damaged containers or spilled material unless wearing appropriate protective clothing.
• Stop leak if you can do it without risk.
• Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.
• Absorb or cover with dry earth, sand or other non-combustible material and transfer to containers.
• DO NOT GET WATER INSIDE CONTAINERS.

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.
• Do not perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation if victim ingested or inhaled the substance; wash face and mouth before giving artificial respiration. Use 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 substance, immediately flush skin or eyes with running water for at least 20 minutes.
• For minor skin contact, avoid spreading material on unaffected skin.
• Keep victim calm and warm.
• Effects of exposure (inhalation, ingestion or skin contact) to substance may be delayed.