

# GUIDE HALOGENATED SOLVENTS

## 160

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS

#### HEALTH

- Toxic by ingestion.
- Vapors may cause dizziness or asphyxiation.
- 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 environmental contamination.

#### 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 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.
- Many gases are heavier than air and will spread along the ground and collect in low or confined areas (sewers, basements, tanks, etc.).
- 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 for at least 50 meters (150 feet) in all directions.

##### 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.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**FIRE**

**Small Fire**

- Dry chemical, CO<sub>2</sub> or water spray.

**Large Fire**

- Dry chemical, CO<sub>2</sub>, 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.
- 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.
- 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**

- 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, 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.