CHLOROACETONITRILE

UN 2668

Shipping Name: Chloroacetonitrile
Other Names: Chloroethanenitrile
Chloromethyl cyanide

WARNING!
- POISON! BREATHING THE VAPOR, SKIN CONTACT OR SWALLOWING THE LIQUID CAN KILL YOU! CONVERTED TO CYANIDE IN THE BODY!
- Firefighting gear (including SCBA) does not provide adequate protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel

Hazards:

- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Low concentrations are very irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs
- Vapors may travel long distances to ignition sources and flashback
- Combustion or decomposition products upon heating include toxic nitrogen oxides and hydrogen chloride

Awareness and Operational Level Training Response:

- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- Stay upwind and uphill
- Determine the extent of the problem
- Isolate the area of release or fire and deny entry
- For container exposed to fire evacuate the area in all directions because of the risk of BLEVE
- Evacuate the immediate area and downwind for a large release
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If material or contaminated runoff enters waterway, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

Description:

- Colorless liquid
- Pungent odor
- Sinks in water and is moderately soluble in water
- Very flammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas

Operational Level Training Response:

RELEASE, NO FIRE:

- Stop the release if it can be done safely from a distance
- Prevent material and runoff from entering sewers and waterways if it can be done safely well ahead of the release
- Use large amounts of water to disperse vapors - contain runoff
- Consider the application of alcohol resistant (AFFF) foam to spilled liquid to control vapors
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk

FIRE:

- APPROACH FIRE WITH EXTREME CAUTION; consider letting fire burn
- Specially trained personnel operating from a safe distance can fight fires using alcohol resitant (AFFF) foam or dry chemical if available in sufficient amounts or use fog streams to extinguish burning liquid or dilute to a non-flammable mixture. Keep exposures cool to protect against re-ignition. Do not direct straight streams into the liquid.
- Cool exposed containers with large quantities of water from unattended equipment or remove intact containers if it can be done safely
- If cooling streams are ineffective (unvented container distorts, bulges or shows any other signs of expanding), withdraw immediately to a secure location

First Aid:

- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- Provide Basic Life Support/CPR as needed
- Decontaminate the victim as follows:
  - Inhalation - remove the victim to fresh air and give oxygen if available
  - Skin - remove and isolate contaminated clothing (including shoes) and wash skin with soap and large volumes of water for 15 minutes
  - Eye - rinse eyes with large volumes of water or saline for 15 minutes
  - Swallowed - do not make the victim vomit
- Victims should be examined by a physician as soon as possible
- Note to physician:can produce cyanide toxicity; if symptoms indicate, inital treatment includes the cyanide antidote kit

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