



DICHLOROMETHYL ETHER

UN 2249

Shipping Name: Dichloromethyl ether, symmetrical

Other Names: BCME

Bis(chloromethyl) ether

Chloro(chloromethoxy) methane

Chloromethyl ether



WARNING! • POISON! BREATHING THE VAPORS CAN KILL YOU!

- Firefighting gear (including SCBA) does not provide adequate protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel

Hazards:

- Highly flammable
- Extremely irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs
- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Vapors are heavier than air and collect and stay in low areas
- Vapors may travel long distances to ignition sources and flashback
- Vapors in confined areas (e.g., tanks, sewers, buildings) may explode when exposed to fire
- Reacts with water to produce hydrochloric acid and formaldehyde
- Combustion products include toxic hydrogen chloride
- May form peroxides upon standing which will detonate with heat or shock
- Known to cause cancer in humans following long term exposure: contact should be avoided

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
- Remove all ignition sources
- For container exposed to fire evacuate the area in all directions because of the risk of BLEVE
- Evacuate the immediate area and downwind for large release
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If material or contaminated runoff enters waterways, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

Description:

- Colorless liquid
- Suffocating odor
- Sinks in water and decomposes in water to form toxic hydrochloric acid
- Highly 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 foam to large areas of spilled liquid to control vapors
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk

FIRE:

- If material is on fire and conditions permit, DO NOT EXTINGUISH. Cool exposures using unattended monitors.
- Specially trained personnel operating from a safe distance can fight fires using foam or dry chemical if available in sufficient amounts. Under favorable conditions, experienced crews can use coordinated fog streams to sweep the flames off the surface of the burning liquid. 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 deforming), 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
- Seek medical attention
- Toxic effects may be delayed
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

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