



DIMETHYL ETHER

UN 1033

Shipping Name: Dimethyl ether

Other Names: Methyl ether
Methyl oxide
Wood ether



WARNING! • EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE!

Hazards:

- Exposure of cylinders to fire and flame or elevated temperatures may cause cylinder to rupture or frangible disc to burst, releasing entire contents of cylinder. Ruptured or venting cylinders may rocket through buildings and/or travel a considerable distance
- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Gas may travel long distances to ignition sources and flashback
- Gas in confined areas (e.g., tanks, sewers, buildings) may explode when exposed to fire
- Irritating to skin and eyes
- Contact with liquid may cause frostbite

Awareness and Operational Level Training

Response:

- 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 explosion
- Evacuate the immediate area and downwind for a large release
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies

Description:

- Colorless compressed gas
- Sweet, ether-like odor
- Liquid floats on water and dissolves slowly in water
- Extremely flammable
- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Becomes a liquid below -12° F

Operational Level Training Response:

RELEASE, NO FIRE:

- Stop the release if it can be done safely from a distance
- Use large amounts of water to disperse vapors - contain runoff
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk

FIRE:

- Do not extinguish the fire unless the flow of the gas can be stopped and any remaining gas is out of the line. Specially trained personnel may use fog lines to cool exposures and let the fire burn itself out
- Cool exposed containers with large quantities of water from unattended equipment or remove intact containers if it can be done safely
- If cylinders are exposed to excessive heat from fire or flame contact, withdraw immediately to a secure location

First Aid:

- 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
- Frostbite - warm injured area in very warm water
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

CAS: 115-10-6