



HYDROFLUORIC ACID

UN 1790

Shipping Name: Hydrofluoric acid, solution
Other Names: Hydrogen fluoride, solution



- WARNING!** • **POISON! BREATHING THE VAPORS, SWALLOWING THE LIQUID OR SKIN CONTACT CAN KILL YOU! SKIN AND EYE CONTACT CAUSES SEVERE BURNS AND BLINDNESS!**
- Firefighting gear (including SCBA) does not provide adequate protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel

Hazards:

- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Reacts with most metals to form flammable and explosive hydrogen gas
- Corrosive to most metals

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 or shelter in place the immediate area and downwind for a large release
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If material or contaminated run off enters waterway, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

Description:

- Colorless liquid
- Shipped and stored as a 40% to 70% solution of hydrogen fluoride in water
- Irritating odor
- Soluble in water
- Nonflammable

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:

- Material does not burn; fight surrounding fire with an agent appropriate for the burning material
- 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
- Seek medical attention
- Toxic effects may be delayed
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing
- Note to physician: skin burns can be treated with calcium gluconate gel

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