



METHYL CHLOROACETATE

UN 2295

Shipping Name: Methyl chloroacetate

Other Names: Chloroacetic acid, methyl ester

Methyl monochloroacetate



Hazards:

- Very irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs
- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Vapors in confined areas (e.g., tanks, sewers, buildings) may explode when exposed to fire
- Combustion and decomposition products upon heating include toxic hydrogen chloride

Description:

- Colorless liquid
- Sweet, pungent odor
- Sinks in water and is insoluble in water
- Very flammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Freezes at -28° F

Awareness and Operational Level Training

Response:

- Stay uphill and upwind
- 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
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If material or contaminated runoff enters waterways, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

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 large areas of spilled liquid to control vapors
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk

FIRE:

- Specially trained personnel operating from a safe distance can fight fires using alcohol resistant (AFFF) foam or dry chemical if available in sufficient amounts or use fog streams to extinguish burning liquid. Keep exposures cool to protect against re-ignition. Do not direct straight streams into 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 (venting sound increases in volume and pitch, tank discolors or shows any signs of expanding), 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

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