



METHYL MERCAPTAN

UN 1064

Other Names: Mercaptomethane
Methanethiol
Methyl sulfhydrylate
Thiomethyl alcohol



- WARNING!**
- **POISON! BREATHING THE GAS CAN KILL YOU!**
 - Firefighting gear (including SCBA) provides NO protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel
 - **EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE!**

Hazards:

- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Container may BLEVE or explode when exposed to fire
- 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, eyes, nose and lungs
- May interfere with the body's ability to use oxygen
- Combustion products include toxic sulfur oxides

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 or explosion
- 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 waterways, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

Description:

- Colorless gas
- Shipped and stored as a liquefied gas under its own vapor pressure
- Rotten cabbage-like very disagreeable odor
- Slightly soluble in water
- Extremely flammable
- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Becomes a liquid below 43° F

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 gas - 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:

- 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:

- 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
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing
- Note to physician: can cause methemoglobinemia; if symptoms indicate, methylene blue is the initial antidote

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