



PHOSGENE

UN 1076

Shipping Name: Phosgene
Other Names: Carbon dichloride oxide
Carbon oxychloride
Carbonyl chloride

Phosgen
Chloroformyl chloride



WARNING! • **POISON! BREATHING GAS WILL KILL YOU! SKIN AND EYE CONTACT CAUSES SEVERE BURNS AND BLINDNESS!**

- Firefighting gear (including SCBA) provides NO protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel

Hazards:

- Odor is not a reliable indicator of the presence of toxic amounts of gas
- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Containers not equipped with a safety valve may explode or rocket if exposed to heat or fire
- Reacts with water to form hydrochloric acid
- Corrosive to some metals, plastics and rubber
- Decomposition products upon heating include toxic chlorine gas and hydrogen chloride

Awareness and Operational Level Training

Response:

- **DO NOT ATTEMPT RESCUE!**
- Stay upwind and uphill
- Determine the extent of the problem
- **BACK OFF!** - Isolate a wide area around the release or fire, deny entry and call for expert help
- 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; a colorless to light yellow fuming liquid below 46° F
- Musty odor like hay but may not be detectable at higher concentrations
- Shipped as liquefied compressed gas in cylinders
- Liquid sinks in water and reacts with water to form hydrochloric acid and carbon dioxide
- Nonflammable
- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Has been used as a war gas

Operations Level Training Response:

RELEASE, NO FIRE:

- Stop the release if it can be done safely from a distance
- Prevent contaminated runoff from entering sewers and waterways if it can be done safely well ahead of release
- Use large amounts of water well away from the material to disperse gas - contain runoff
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk
- If in a building, evacuate building and confine vapors by closing doors and shutting down HVAC systems

FIRE:

- If material is involved in a fire and conditions permit, **DO NOT EXTINGUISH**. Cool exposures using unattended monitors.
- 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 cylinders are exposed to excessive heat from fire or flame contact, withdraw immediately to a secure location

First Aid:

- **DO NOT ATTEMPT RESCUE!**
- The contaminated victim poses a health risk to the responder
- Decontaminate the victim from a safe distance with a stream of water; have the victim remove clothing if possible; provide Basic Life Support/CPR as needed
- Further 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
- Victims should be examined by a physician as soon as possible
- Toxic effects may be delayed
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

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