



# SODIUM CYANIDE

UN 1689

Shipping Name: Sodium cyanide

Other Names: Hydrocyanic acid, sodium salt



- WARNING!** ● **POISON! BREATHING OR SWALLOWING THE DUST, OR SKIN CONTACT CAN KILL YOU!**
- Firefighting gear (including SCBA) does not provide adequate protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel
  - **CONTACT WITH CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) OR ACIDS WILL RELEASE CYANIDE GAS!**

<b>Hazards:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Decomposition products upon heating include toxic cyanide and nitrogen oxides</li><li>● Corrosive to aluminum</li></ul>	<b>Description:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Colorless solid</li><li>● Odorless or almond-like odor</li><li>● Dissolves in water</li><li>● Nonflammable</li></ul>
<b>Awareness and Operational Level Training Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim</b></li><li>● Stay upwind and uphill</li><li>● Determine the extent of the problem</li><li>● Isolate the area of release or fire and deny entry</li><li>● Evacuate or shelter in place the immediate area and downwind for a large release</li><li>● Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies</li><li>● If material or contaminated runoff enters waterway, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water</li></ul>	<b>Operational Level Training Response:</b> <p>RELEASE, NO FIRE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cover material to protect from wind, rain or spray</li><li>● Prevent runoff from entering sewers and waterways if it can be done safely well ahead of the release</li><li>● Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk</li></ul> <p>FIRE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>DO NOT USE CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) EXTINGUISHERS ON FIRE;</b> releases toxic hydrogen cyanide gas</li><li>● Material does not burn; fight surrounding fire with an agent appropriate for the burning material</li><li>● Cool exposed containers with large quantities of water from unattended equipment or remove intact containers if it can be done safely</li><li>● If cooling streams are ineffective (unvented container distorts, bulges or shows any other signs of expanding), withdraw immediately to a secure location</li></ul>

### First Aid:

- **Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim**
- 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
  - ◆ Swallowed - do not make the victim vomit
- Victims should be examined by a physician as soon as possible
- **Do NOT perform direct mouth to mouth resuscitation; use a bag/mask apparatus**
- Note to physician: can produce cyanide toxicity; if symptoms indicate, initial treatment includes the cyanide antidote kit

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