



FORMALDEHYDE CYANOHYDRIN

Other Names: Cyanomethanol Hydroxyacetonitrile
Glycolonitrile Methylene cyanohydrin
Glyconitrile

- WARNING!** ● **POISON! BREATHING THE VAPOR, SKIN CONTACT OR SWALLOWING THE MATERIAL CAN KILL YOU! CONVERTED TO CYANIDE IN THE BODY!**
- Fire fighting gear (including SCBA) provides **NO** protection. If exposure occurs, remove and isolate gear immediately and thoroughly decontaminate personnel
 - **MAY REACT WITH ITSELF BLOCKING RELIEF VALVES LEADING TO TANK EXPLOSION!**

Hazards:

- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Combustion and decomposition products upon heating include toxic hydrogen cyanide and nitrogen 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
- 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 runoff enters waterways, notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

Description:

- Colorless oily liquid
- Shipped as 70% water solution stabilized with phosphoric acid
- No odor
- Soluble in water
- Very flammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas

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:

- If material is on fire and conditions permit, **DO NOT EXTINGUISH**. Cool exposures using unattended monitors.
- 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 or dilute to a nonflammable mixture. Keep exposures cool to protect against re-ignition. Do not direct straight streams into the 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 (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**
- The contaminated victim poses a risk to the responder
- Decontaminate the victim from a distance, provide Basic Life Support/CPR as needed and further decontaminate 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; Toxic effects may be delayed
- **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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