



# METHYL CHLORIDE

UN 1063

Shipping Name: Methyl chloride  
Other Names: Arctic  
Chloromethane  
Freon 40

Monochloromethane  
R40



## WARNING! • EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE!

### Hazards:

- Container may explode or BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- 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
- Mildly irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs
- Exposure to the liquid may cause frostbite
- Combustion products include toxic hydrogen chloride

### Awareness and Operational Level Training

#### Response:

- Stay upwind
- Determine the extent of the problem
- Isolate the area of the release 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
- May be shipped and stored as a liquefied compressed gas
- Faint sweet odor
- Liquid floats on the surface of water and boils; gas is slightly soluble in water
- Extremely flammable
- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Becomes a liquid below -11° F

### Operational Level Training Response:

#### RELEASE, NO FIRE:

- Stop the release if it can be done safely from a distance
- 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

#### 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 cooling streams are ineffective (venting sound increases in volume and pitch, tank discolors or shows any signs of deforming), 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
  - ◆ Eye - rinse eyes with large volumes of water or saline for 15 minutes
- Seek medical attention
- Frostbite - warm injured area in very warm water
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

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