



PROPIONIC ACID

UN 1848

Shipping Name: Propionic acid
Other Names: Ethylformic acid
Luprisol
Methyl acetic acid

Propanoic acid
Prozoin



Hazards:

- Very irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs; skin and eye contact can cause severe burns and blindness
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Vapors may travel long distances to ignition sources and flashback
- Vapors in confined areas (e.g., tanks, sewers, buildings) may explode when exposed to fire

Awareness and Operational Level Training Response:

- 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 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
- Pungent rancid odor
- Initially floats on the surface of water and is soluble in water
- Very flammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Freezes at -6° 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 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:

- 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 non-flammable 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 (venting sound increases in volume and pitch, tank discolors or shows any signs of deforming), 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
- Toxic effects may be delayed
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

CAS: 79-09-4