



TETRACHLOROETHYLENE

UN 1897

Shipping Name: Tetrachloroethylene
Other Names: Ethylene tetrachloride
PCE
PERC
Perchlor
Perchloroethylene
Perclene



Hazards:

- Container may BLEVE when exposed to fire
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs
- Decomposition products upon heating include toxic hydrogen chloride

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
- For container exposed to fire evacuate the area in all directions because of the risk of BLEVE
- 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 liquid
- Sweet chloroform-like odor
- Sinks in water and is insoluble in water
- Nonflammable
- Vapors are heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- Freezes at -8° 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 foam to large areas of spilled liquid to control vapors
- Ventilate confined area if it can be done without placing personnel at risk

FIRE:

- 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 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
 - ◆ 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

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