



# VINYL METHYL ETHER

(INHIBITED)

UN 1087

Shipping Name: Vinyl methyl ether, inhibited  
Other Names: 1-Methoxyethylene  
Methoxyethylene  
Methyl vinyl ether



**WARNING!** • EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE! CONTAINER MAY EXPLODE WHEN EXPOSED TO FIRE!  
• MAY REACT WITH ITSELF BLOCKING RELIEF VALVES AND LEADING TO TANK EXPLOSION!

## Hazards:

- 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
- Irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs; prolonged contact with skin can cause burns
- Contact with liquid may cause frostbite

## 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 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
- Sweet odor
- Liquid floats on the surface of water and is slightly soluble in water
- Extremely flammable
- Shipped and stored as a compressed gas
- Gas is heavier than air and will collect and stay in low areas
- A liquid below 42° 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 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
  - ◆ 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
- Frostbite - warm injured area in very warm water
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

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