

EMERGENCIES INVOLVING CORROSIVES

Quick Responses Make The Difference

Corrosives are found in many processes like metal plating and industrial cleaning. These harsh acids and bases can explode, cause fires, or harm the human body very quickly. Your quick response to an emergency can mean the difference between a slight skin irritation and a blistering burn, or even between life and death.

Be Smart Ahead Of Time

Start now by learning your company's emergency procedures and the rules below. Then, *before* you handle, store or dispose of a corrosive, read the



Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and label to learn about the most effective emergency procedures.

Handle a spill, leak, fire or other emergency yourself only if it is small *and* you are trained to do so. Otherwise you might make the situation more dangerous. Evacuate the area as quickly as possible as you let others know about the emergency. Then, notify your supervisor or an appropriately trained person immediately.

If a corrosive gets on your clothes, keep gloves on while you remove the clothes immediately. Follow company procedures for cleaning or disposing of the clothes.

Water And Air: The Best Medicine

For most medical emergencies

involving corrosives, the first treatment will be water (for skin and eyes) or fresh air (for inhalation). But, since corrosives are so harsh, immediate treatment by medical professionals is always critical.

In Your Eyes

If a corrosive gets in your eyes, go directly to the nearest eyewash station. If none is nearby, use any low-pressure clean water source, such as a hose. Remove contact lenses which can absorb or trap the corrosive. Flush your eyes for 15-20 minutes, letting the water run from the inside to the outside of the eyes. Do not apply neutralizers or ointments, which can make potential damage worse. You may need to



restrain someone who has corrosives in the eyes in order to administer first aid. Immediately *after* flushing, get the person to a medical professional for further treatment.

On Your Skin

If you get a corrosive on your skin, rinse (don't scrub) the affected area for 15-20 minutes. If you are not near a safety shower, use a faucet, hose, or any clean water source. Remove any contaminated clothing and if necessary, dispose of it. Do not put clothing back



on until it has been decontaminated or cleaned. Do not apply burn ointments or neutralizing solutions. If possible, after rinsing, cover the burn with a sterile dressing, then get the individual to a medical professional immediately.

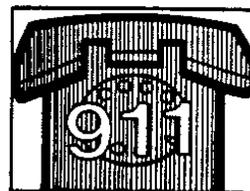
Inhaled

If you inhale corrosive vapors, symptoms can range from slight throat irritation to serious difficulty breathing. Get to fresh air immediately, and ask a coworker to get medical attention for you right away.



Swallowed

If you swallow a corrosive, ask a coworker to get medical assistance immediately and to call the local Poison Control Center. (This phone number is in the front of your phone book, but may also be posted on the wall.) Don't eat or drink anything unless it says to on the corrosive's label or MSDS, or, if a medical professional tells you to.



After An Emergency

Corrosives do much of their damage quickly, but some symptoms may not appear immediately. If you've been in an emergency involving corrosives, stay under medical observation until your doctor releases you.