

Ammonia

Toolbox Talk #9



What are the Hazards of Ammonia?

Ammonia is a corrosive substance, especially dangerous when coming contact with human skin, eyes, or entering the lungs. If ammonia contacts the skin it can cause freezing and 3rd degree burns. Exposure to ammonia gas or vapors at concentrations ranging from 2500 to 6500 ppm can induce chemical pneumonitis, burns, and dyspnea, edema, and progressive cyanosis. Furthermore, ammonia is a flammable substance, and when mixed with lubricating oils the flammability increases. Ammonia is a substance you have to be extremely careful with because it can be harmful in various ways.

Signs of Exposure

- Violent Coughing
- Impaired Vision
- Irritation of the eyes
- Suffocation
- Tearing
- Painful Breathing
- Corrosion of Skin

Emergency Situations

- Eye Exposure- Flush eyes with water for at least 15 mins
- Skin Exposure- Immediately wash hands with soap and water
- Inhalation Exposure- Victim should be moved to fresh air immediately, if victim is not breathing wash their face to remove any contaminants then preform CPR

How to Avoid Hazardous Exposure

- Report all spills, leaks, or failures of safety equipment
- Never work alone when dealing with this substance
- Wear chemical safety goggles, and face shields may be necessary at times
- Wear chemical protective clothing
- For up to 250 ppm wear NIOSH approved respirator
- For up to 300 ppm wear self-contained breathing apparatus
- If possible use local exhaust ventilation and enclosure

