

CHEMICAL EXPOSURE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The extent of injuries caused by chemicals is directly related to the concentration and quantity of the caustic agent, the type and duration of contact, the extent of penetration and the chemical's intrinsic mechanism of action. It is absolutely essential that users are aware of the potential dangers of the reagents to be used **beforehand** and that they are prepared to deal with a splash or exposure of the chemical. Following the procedures outlined in the (Material) Safety Data Sheets - (M)SDS - and using proper personal protective equipment will help prevent injury.

Eyes

- Immediately proceed to closest eyewash station.
- Flush eyes with copious amounts of water for at least 15 – 20 minutes.
- Forcibly hold the eyelids open so that the entire surface of the eye is flushed.
- If the person has contact lenses, ensure that they are removed after the initial flushing.
- Seek medical attention. Take a current copy of the (M)SDS along with you.

Skin

- Wash all exposed areas with copious amounts of water for at least 15 – 20 minutes using emergency shower, hand/spray unit or tap.
- Remove any overlying clothing that may retain the chemical and prevent thorough washing of the skin.
- Seek medical attention. Take a current copy of the (M)SDS along with you.

Note: Although copious amounts of water should be used for virtually all chemical burns, there are exceptions. Some chemicals react violently and explosively when combined with water, and other chemicals are insoluble in water. It is important to follow the (M)SDS and treat the burn correctly to avoid complications. Each department is responsible for communicating specific response procedures for such products.

Inhalation

- Immediately move from the exposed area to fresh air – outdoors.
- Avoid breathing in the fumes.
- Seek medical attention. Take a current copy of the (M)SDS along with you.

Ingestion

- Contact the Poison Control Centre [1-800-268-9017]
- **Do NOT induce vomiting.**
- Seek medical attention. Take a current copy of the (M)SDS along with you.