



Working Safely With Corrosives

Corrosives are substances that can burn or destroy on contact. There are two types of corrosives: acids and bases (or alkalis). Corrosives react with other substances to eat away or chemically burn whatever they touch. They can burn skin, irritating or even blistering it, and can severely damage eyesight.

Handle Corrosives With Care

-  Some corrosives produce toxic or explosive gases.
-  Acids and bases react violently with water and with each other.
-  Make sure all containers housing corrosives are clearly labeled and in good condition, with no cracks, dents or leaks.
-  Store acids and bases away from each other.
-  When mixing a corrosive with water, always add the corrosive to the water, since adding water to concentrated acid may produce a violent reaction.
-  Make sure there is adequate ventilation when working with corrosives.
-  When acids react with metal, they produce explosive hydrogen gas.
-  Some corrosives release oxygen, which poses a fire hazard.
-  Many corrosives are flammable.

Protect Yourself

-  Appropriate personal protective equipment should always be worn when working with corrosives.
-  A face shield and safety goggles or glasses with side shields will protect your eyes and face.
-  Clothing and gloves of neoprene or other corrosive-resistant material will protect you.
-  Work with some corrosives requires you to wear a fully encapsulated suit and chemical resistant boots.
-  Wear an approved respirator equipped with the right cartridge or canister for the corrosive you're using. Inhaled corrosive gases can cause irritation of the mouth and respiratory passages, coughing, difficulty breathing or respiratory failure.

KNOW YOUR SAFETY MEASURES

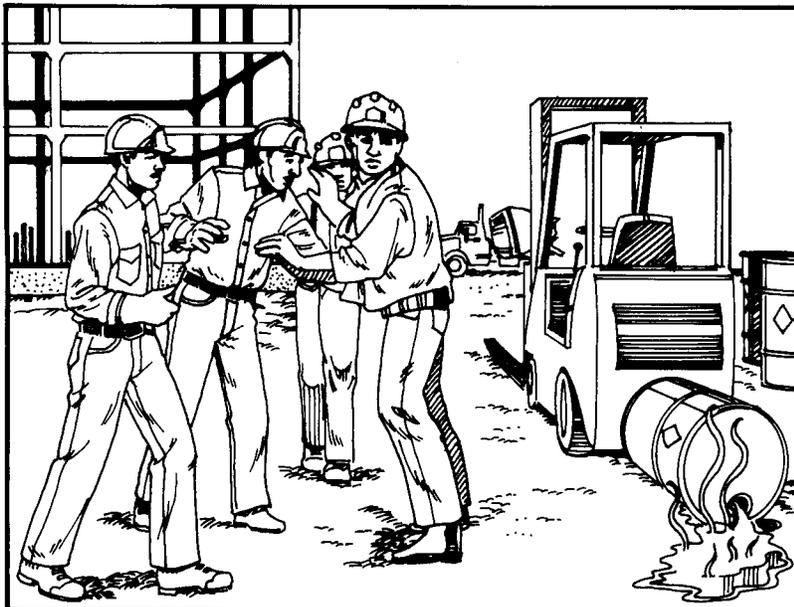
- Remove contaminated clothing.
- Always thoroughly wash your gloves.
- Keep your street clothes separate from your work clothes.
- Read the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for each corrosive before you start work and know the dangers.
- Treat contact with a corrosive as a chemical burn.
- Immediately flush burns with water for 15 to 20 minutes and get medical attention.
- Keep your work area and equipment clean.

CORROSIVES

Responding to Emergencies Involving Corrosives

Do you know what to do if there's a corrosive spill or if corrosives come in contact with your body? Use the following guidelines when responding to corrosive emergencies.

-  Clean up small corrosive spills immediately if you've been trained to do so.
-  If a large corrosive spill occurs, evacuate the area immediately and report the spill to your supervisor.
-  When a corrosive touches skin, rinse (don't scrub) the affected area for 15 to 20 minutes, even if you don't feel pain from the corrosive. Cover the burn with a sterile dressing and get medical attention immediately.
-  Don't apply burn ointments or neutralizing solutions to a corrosive burn.
-  If a corrosive is swallowed, don't drink or swallow anything or try to vomit unless the label or a medical professional instructs you to. Call the local poison control center and get medical attention immediately.
-  When corrosive vapors are inhaled, get to fresh air immediately and get medical attention right away.
-  Using gloves, immediately remove clothing that has a corrosive spill on it.

**IN AN EMERGENCY...**

Do you know where to get help? Where is:

- the eyewash station?
- the safety shower?
- a fresh-air source?
- poison control center phone number?
- medical emergency number?
- the location of the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for each corrosive?
- the company policy and procedures for emergencies?

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