

# NIOSH ALERT

## Preventing Asthma and Death from Diisocyanate Exposure

### WARNING!

Workers exposed to diisocyanates may develop serious or fatal respiratory disease.

#### Employers should take the following steps to protect workers from diisocyanate exposure:

- Make workers aware of the serious health effects that may result from diisocyanate exposures.
- Make workers aware of any materials that may contain or be contaminated with diisocyanates.
- When feasible, substitute a less hazardous material for diisocyanates.
- If substitution is not possible, use engineering controls such as closed systems and ventilation to minimize exposures.
- Provide appropriate respiratory protection to workers exposed to diisocyanates.

#### Workers should take the following steps to protect themselves from diisocyanate exposure:

- Be aware that the highest diisocyanate concentrations may occur inside containment structures.

- Use appropriate respiratory protection when working with diisocyanates.
- Wash hands and face before eating, drinking, or smoking outside the work area.
- Shower and change into clean clothes before leaving the worksite.
- Participate in medical monitoring and examination programs, air monitoring programs, or training programs offered by your employer.

For additional information, see **NIOSH ALERT: Request for Assistance in Preventing Asthma and Death from Diisocyanate Exposure** [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 96-111]. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

Publications Dissemination, EID  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Fax number: (513) 533-8573  
Phone number: 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674)  
E-mail: [pubstaft@niosdt1.em.cdc.gov](mailto:pubstaft@niosdt1.em.cdc.gov)



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
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National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health