

NIOSH ALERT

Dimethylformamide (DMF)

WARNING!

Avoid skin contact with dimethylformamide (DMF)! This chemical is easily absorbed through the skin and can cause liver damage and other adverse health effects.

Dimethylformamide is associated with the following health effects:

- *Liver damage*
- *Alcohol intolerance*
- *Skin problems*

Exposed workers have also reported the following symptoms:

- *Weakness*
- *Nausea and vomiting*
- *Abdominal pain*
- *Dizziness*
- *Headache*
- *Constipation*

Some reports suggest an increase in cancer among workers exposed to DMF, but the evidence is not conclusive at this time. The excess cancer observed could have resulted from exposure to other chemicals or tobacco, or from chance alone.

Take the following precautions if you are exposed to DMF on the job:

1. Obtain and read the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for DMF and the NIOSH Alert on DMF (see ordering information at right).
2. Avoid skin contact with DMF: Use chemical protective clothing such as gloves and aprons made from butyl rubber, Teflon[®],

or polyethylene/ethylene (for example, 4H[®] or Silvershield[®]).

3. Use respiratory protection when concentrations of DMF in workplace air may exceed 10 ppm as an 8-hour time-weighted average (for example, during emergencies or maintenance operations).
4. Participate in your company's medical screening program if you qualify.

For additional information, see the NIOSH Alert on DMF [DHHS (NIOSH) 90-105], or call 1-800-35-NIOSH. Single copies are available free from the following:

Publication Dissemination, DSDTT
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