# Gases - Inert (Including Refrigerated Liquids)

# **POTENTIAL HAZARDS**

## HEALTH

- · Vapors may cause dizziness or asphyxiation without warning.
- Vapors from liquefied gas are initially heavier than air and spread along ground.
- Contact with gas or liquefied gas may cause burns, severe injury and/or frostbite.

## FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- Non-flammable gases.
- Containers may explode when heated.
- · Ruptured cylinders may rocket.

# **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- CALL Emergency Response Telephone Number on Shipping Paper first. If Shipping Paper not available or no answer, refer to appropriate telephone number listed on the inside back cover.
- As an immediate precautionary measure, isolate spill or leak area for at least 100 meters (330 feet) in all directions.
- · Keep unauthorized personnel away.
- · Stay upwind.
- Many gases are heavier than air and will spread along ground and collect in low or confined areas (sewers, basements, tanks).
- · Keep out of low areas.
- Ventilate closed spaces before entering.

## PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Wear positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Structural firefighters' protective clothing will only provide limited protection.
- Always wear thermal protective clothing when handling refrigerated/cryogenic liquids or solids.

# **EVACUATION**

# Large Spill

· Consider initial downwind evacuation for at least 100 meters (330 feet).

#### Fire

• If tank, rail car or tank truck is involved in a fire, ISOLATE for 800 meters (1/2 mile) in all directions; also, consider initial evacuation for 800 meters (1/2 mile) in all directions.

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# **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

## **FIRE**

- · Use extinguishing agent suitable for type of surrounding fire.
- Move containers from fire area if you can do it without risk.
- · Damaged cylinders should be handled only by specialists.

# Fire involving Tanks

- Fight fire from maximum distance or use unmanned hose holders or monitor nozzles.
- Cool containers with flooding quantities of water until well after fire is out.
- Do not direct water at source of leak or safety devices; icing may occur.
- Withdraw immediately in case of rising sound from venting safety devices or discoloration of tank.
- · ALWAYS stay away from tanks engulfed in fire.

## SPILL OR LEAK

- · Do not touch or walk through spilled material.
- · Stop leak if you can do it without risk.
- Use water spray to reduce vapors or divert vapor cloud drift. Avoid allowing water runoff to contact spilled material.
- · Do not direct water at spill or source of leak.
- If possible, turn leaking containers so that gas escapes rather than liquid.
- Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.
- · Allow substance to evaporate.
- · Ventilate the area.

CAUTION: When in contact with refrigerated/cryogenic liquids, many materials become brittle and are likely to break without warning.

## **FIRST AID**

- Move victim to fresh air. Call 911 or emergency medical service.
- Give artificial respiration if victim is not breathing.
- · Administer oxygen if breathing is difficult.
- Clothing frozen to the skin should be thawed before being removed.
- In case of contact with liquefied gas, thaw frosted parts with lukewarm water.
- · Keep victim warm and quiet.
- Ensure that medical personnel are aware of the material(s) involved and take precautions to protect themselves.