



# Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **BENZO(a)PYRENE**

Synonyms: 3,4-Benzopyrene; B[a]P

Chemical Name: Benzo[a]pyrene

Date: July 1998

Revision: October 2007

CAS Number: 50-32-8

RTK Substance Number: 0207

DOT Number: UN 3077

## Description and Use

**Benzo(a)pyrene** is a pale yellow, crystalline solid or powder with a faint aromatic odor. In its pure form it is used as a laboratory reagent. It also forms as a gaseous by-product when certain carbon substances burn, such as coal tar chemicals, and is found in cigarette smoke.

## Reasons for Citation

- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** is on the Right to Know Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by OSHA, ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, NTP, DEP, IARC, IRIS, and EPA.
- ▶ This chemical is on the Special Health Hazard Substance List.

SEE GLOSSARY ON PAGE 5.

## FIRST AID

### Eye Contact

- ▶ Immediately flush with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting upper and lower lids. Remove contact lenses, if worn, while rinsing.

### Skin Contact

- ▶ Remove contaminated clothing. Wash contaminated skin with soap and water.

### Inhalation

- ▶ Remove the person from exposure.
- ▶ Transfer promptly to a medical facility.

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300

NJDEP Hotline: 1-877-927-6337

National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE BACK PAGE

## Hazard Summary

Hazard Rating	NJDOH	NFPA
HEALTH	3	-
FLAMMABILITY	1	-
REACTIVITY	0	-
CARCINOGEN POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE		

Hazard Rating Key: 0=minimal; 1=slight; 2=moderate; 3=serious; 4=severe

- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** can affect you when inhaled and by passing through the skin.
- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** is a CARCINOGEN. HANDLE WITH EXTREME CAUTION.
- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** may damage the developing fetus.
- ▶ Contact can irritate and burn the eyes.
- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** can irritate the skin causing a rash or burning feeling on contact.
- ▶ Repeated exposure can cause thickening and darkening of the skin.
- ▶ Except in laboratories, **Benzo(a)pyrene** is usually found mixed with other "coal tar pitch" chemicals.
- ▶ For more information, consult the Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets on COAL TAR PITCH, CREOSOTE, CHRYSENE, and ANTHRACENE.

## Workplace Exposure Limits

OSHA: The legal airborne permissible exposure limit (PEL) is **0.2 mg/m<sup>3</sup>** (as Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles) averaged over an 8-hour workshift.

NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit (REL) is **0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>** (as the Cyclohexane-extractable fraction) averaged over a 10-hour workshift.

ACGIH: Recommends that exposure by all routes be controlled to levels as low as possible.

- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** is a PROBABLE CARCINOGEN in humans. There may be no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen, so all contact should be reduced to the lowest possible level.
- ▶ The above exposure limits are for air levels only. When skin contact also occurs, you may be overexposed, even though air levels are less than the limits listed above.

## Determining Your Exposure

- ▶ Read the product manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and the label to determine product ingredients and important safety and health information about the product mixture.
- ▶ For each individual hazardous ingredient, read the New Jersey Department of Health Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, available on the RTK website ([www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb](http://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb)) or in your facility's RTK Central File or Hazard Communication Standard file.
- ▶ You have a right to this information under the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act, the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Act if you are a public worker in New Jersey, and under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) if you are a private worker.
- ▶ The New Jersey Right to Know Act requires most employers to label chemicals in the workplace and requires public employers to provide their employees with information concerning chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) and the PEOSH Hazard Communication Standard (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7) require employers to provide similar information and training to their employees.

This Fact Sheet is a summary of available information regarding the health hazards that may result from exposure. Duration of exposure, concentration of the substance and other factors will affect your susceptibility to any of the potential effects described below.

## Health Hazard Information

### Acute Health Effects

The following acute (short-term) health effects may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to **Benzo(a)pyrene**:

- ▶ Contact can irritate and burn the eyes.
- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** can irritate the skin causing a rash or burning feeling on contact. Exposure to a combination of sunlight and this chemical can increase these effects.

### Chronic Health Effects

The following chronic (long-term) health effects can occur at some time after exposure to **Benzo(a)pyrene** and can last for months or years:

### Cancer Hazard

- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** is a PROBABLE CARCINOGEN in humans. There is some evidence that it causes stomach, skin, lung, blood, spleen, pancreas, and mammary cancer in animals.
- ▶ Many scientists believe there is no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen.

### Reproductive Hazard

- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** may damage the developing fetus.
- ▶ There is limited evidence that **Benzo(a)pyrene** may damage the male and female reproductive systems.

### Other Effects

- ▶ Repeated exposure can cause thickening and darkening of the skin and warts.

## Medical

### Medical Testing

There is no special test for this chemical. However, seek medical attention if illness occurs or overexposure is suspected.

Any evaluation should include a careful history of past and present symptoms with an exam. Medical tests that look for damage already done are not a substitute for controlling exposure.

Request copies of your medical testing. You have a legal right to this information under the OSHA Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records Standard (29 CFR 1910.1020).

### Mixed Exposures

- ▶ Sunlight may cause a rash to develop in people exposed to **Benzo(a)pyrene** and increases the risk of skin cancer.
- ▶ Tobacco smoke also contains **Benzo(a)pyrene**. Smoking may increase the risk of lung cancer with exposure to **Benzo(a)pyrene**.

## Workplace Controls and Practices

Very toxic chemicals, or those that are reproductive hazards or sensitizers, require expert advice on control measures if a less toxic chemical cannot be substituted. Control measures include: (1) enclosing chemical processes for severely irritating and corrosive chemicals, (2) using local exhaust ventilation for chemicals that may be harmful with a single exposure, and (3) using general ventilation to control exposures to skin and eye irritants. For further information on workplace controls, consult the NIOSH document on Control Banding at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ctrlbanding/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ctrlbanding/).

The following work practices are also recommended:

- ▶ Label process containers.
- ▶ Provide employees with hazard information and training.
- ▶ Monitor airborne chemical concentrations.
- ▶ Use engineering controls if concentrations exceed recommended exposure levels.
- ▶ Provide eye wash fountains and emergency showers.
- ▶ Wash or shower if skin comes in contact with a hazardous material.
- ▶ Always wash at the end of the workshift.
- ▶ Change into clean clothing if clothing becomes contaminated.
- ▶ Do not take contaminated clothing home.
- ▶ Get special training to wash contaminated clothing.

- ▶ Do not eat, smoke, or drink in areas where chemicals are being handled, processed or stored.
- ▶ Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics or using the toilet.

In addition, the following may be useful or required:

- ▶ Use a Class I, Type B, biological safety hood when working with **Benzo(a)pyrene** in a laboratory.
- ▶ Use a vacuum or a wet method to reduce dust during clean-up. DO NOT DRY SWEEP.
- ▶ Use a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter when vacuuming. Do not use a standard shop vacuum.

## Personal Protective Equipment

The OSHA Personal Protective Equipment Standard (29 CFR 1910.132) requires employers to determine the appropriate personal protective equipment for each hazard and to train employees on how and when to use protective equipment.

The following recommendations are only guidelines and may not apply to every situation.

### Gloves and Clothing

- ▶ Avoid skin contact with **Benzo(a)pyrene**. Wear personal protective equipment made from material which can not be permeated or degraded by this substance. Safety equipment suppliers and manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove and clothing material for your operation.
- ▶ Safety equipment manufacturers recommend DuPont *Tychem® CPF-2, SL, CPF-4* and *Responder®* as protective materials for clothing.
- ▶ All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.

### Eye Protection

- ▶ Wear eye protection with side shields or goggles.
- ▶ Do not wear contact lenses when working with this substance.

### Respiratory Protection

**Improper use of respirators is dangerous.** Respirators should only be used if the employer has a written program that takes into account workplace conditions, requirements for worker training, respirator fit testing, and medical exams, as described in the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

- ▶ Where the potential exists for exposure over **0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>**, use a NIOSH approved supplied-air respirator with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode. For increased protection use in combination with an auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode.

- ▶ Exposure to **80 mg/m<sup>3</sup>** (as *Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles*) is immediately dangerous to life and health. If the possibility of exposure above **80 mg/m<sup>3</sup>** (as *Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles*) exists, use a NIOSH approved self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode equipped with an emergency escape air cylinder.

## Fire Hazards

If employees are expected to fight fires, they must be trained and equipped as stated in the OSHA Fire Brigades Standard (29 CFR 1910.156).

- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** may burn, but does not readily ignite.
- ▶ Use dry chemical, CO<sub>2</sub>, water spray or foam as extinguishing agents.
- ▶ POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE.

## Spills and Emergencies

If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. The OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (29 CFR 1910.120) may apply.

If **Benzo(a)pyrene** is spilled, take the following steps:

- ▶ Evacuate personnel and secure and control entrance to the area.
- ▶ Eliminate all ignition sources.
- ▶ Moisten spilled material first to reduce dust or use a HEPA-filter vacuum for clean-up.
- ▶ Ventilate and wash area after clean-up is complete.
- ▶ It may be necessary to contain and dispose of **Benzo(a)pyrene** as a HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.

## Handling and Storage

Prior to working with **Benzo(a)pyrene** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- ▶ A regulated, marked area should be established where **Benzo(a)pyrene** is handled, used, or stored.
- ▶ **Benzo(a)pyrene** reacts with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE).
- ▶ Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area.
- ▶ Sources of ignition, such as smoking and open flames, are prohibited where **Benzo(a)pyrene** is used, handled, or stored in a manner that could create a potential fire or explosion hazard.

## Occupational Health Information Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health offers multiple services in occupational health. These services include providing informational resources, educational materials, public presentations, and industrial hygiene and medical investigations and evaluations.

**For more information, please contact:**

New Jersey Department of Health  
Right to Know  
PO Box 368  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0368  
Phone: 609-984-2202  
Fax: 609-984-7407  
E-mail: [rtk@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:rtk@doh.state.nj.us)  
Web address: <http://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb>

***The Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets  
are not intended to be copied and sold  
for commercial purposes.***

**GLOSSARY**

**ACGIH** is the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. They publish guidelines called Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for exposure to workplace chemicals.

**Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGs)** are established by the EPA. They describe the risk to humans resulting from once-in-a-lifetime, or rare, exposure to airborne chemicals.

**Boiling point** is the temperature at which a substance can change its physical state from a liquid to a gas.

A **carcinogen** is a substance that causes cancer.

The **CAS number** is unique, identifying number, assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service, to a specific chemical.

**CFR** is the Code of Federal Regulations, which are the regulations of the United States government.

A **combustible** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that will burn.

A **corrosive** substance is a gas, liquid or solid that causes destruction of human skin or severe corrosion of containers.

**DEP** is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

**DOT** is the Department of Transportation, the federal agency that regulates the transportation of chemicals.

**EPA** is the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency responsible for regulating environmental hazards.

**ERG** is the Emergency Response Guidebook. It is a guide for emergency responders for transportation emergencies involving hazardous substances.

**Emergency Response Planning Guideline (ERPG)** values are intended to provide estimates of concentration ranges where one reasonably might anticipate observing adverse effects.

A **fetus** is an unborn human or animal.

A **flammable** substance is a solid, liquid, vapor or gas that will ignite easily and burn rapidly.

The **flash point** is the temperature at which a liquid or solid gives off vapor that can form a flammable mixture with air.

**IARC** is the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a scientific group.

**Ionization Potential** is the amount of energy needed to remove an electron from an atom or molecule. It is measured in electron volts.

**IRIS** is the Integrated Risk Information System database maintained by federal EPA. The database contains information on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals in the environment.

**LEL or Lower Explosive Limit**, is the lowest concentration of a combustible substance (gas or vapor) in the air capable of continuing an explosion.

**mg/m<sup>3</sup>** means milligrams of a chemical in a cubic meter of air. It is a measure of concentration (weight/volume).

A **mutagen** is a substance that causes mutations. A **mutation** is a change in the genetic material in a body cell. Mutations can lead to birth defects, miscarriages, or cancer.

**NFPA** is the National Fire Protection Association. It classifies substances according to their fire and explosion hazard.

**NIOSH** is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It tests equipment, evaluates and approves respirators, conducts studies of workplace hazards, and proposes standards to OSHA.

**NTP** is the National Toxicology Program which tests chemicals and reviews evidence for cancer.

**OSHA** is the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards.

**PEOSHA** is the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards in public workplaces.

**Permeated** is the movement of chemicals through protective materials.

**PIH** is a DOT designation for chemicals which are Poison Inhalation Hazards.

**ppm** means parts of a substance per million parts of air. It is a measure of concentration by volume in air.

A **reactive** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that releases energy under certain conditions.

**STEL** is a Short Term Exposure Limit which is usually a 15-minute exposure that should not be exceeded at any time during a work day.

A **teratogen** is a substance that causes birth defects by damaging the fetus.

**UEL or Upper Explosive Limit** is the highest concentration in air above which there is too much fuel (gas or vapor) to begin a reaction or explosion.

**Vapor Density** is the ratio of the weight of a given volume of one gas to the weight of another (usually *Hydrogen*), at the same temperature and pressure.

The **vapor pressure** is a measure of how readily a liquid or a solid mixes with air at its surface. A higher vapor pressure indicates a higher concentration of the substance in air and therefore increases the likelihood of breathing it in.

Common Name: **BENZO(a)PYRENE**

Synonyms: 3,4-Benzopyrene; B[a]P

CAS No: 50-32-8

 Molecular Formula: C<sub>20</sub> H<sub>12</sub>

RTK Substance No: 0207

Description: Pale yellow, crystalline solid or powder

**HAZARD DATA**

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
<b>3 - Health</b> <b>1 - Fire</b> <b>0 - Reactivity</b>  DOT#: UN 3077 ERG Guide #: 171 Hazard Class: 9 (Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials)	<b>Benzo(a)pyrene</b> may burn, but does not readily ignite.  Use dry chemical, CO <sub>2</sub> , water spray or foam as extinguishing agents.  POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE.	<b>Benzo(a)pyrene</b> reacts with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE) to cause fires and explosions.

**SPILL/LEAKS**
**Isolation Distance:** 50 meters (150 feet)

Moisten spilled material first or use a HEPA-filter vacuum for clean-up.

Toxic to aquatic organisms.

**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**
**Odor Threshold:** Faint aromatic odor

**Flash Point:** No information

**Specific Gravity:** 1.35

**Vapor Density:** 8.7 (air = 1)

**Vapor Pressure:** 5.49 X 10<sup>9</sup> mm Hg at 77°F (25°C)

**Water Solubility:** Insoluble

**Boiling Point:** 590° - 594°F (310° - 312°C)

**Melting Point:** 347° - 354 F (175° - 179°C)

**EXPOSURE LIMITS**
**OSHA:** 0.2 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, 8-hr TWA

**NIOSH:** 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, 10-hr TWA

**ACGIH:** lowest level possible

**IDLH LEVEL:** 80 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (as *Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles*)

**PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**
**Gloves:** No information

**Coveralls:** DuPont Tychem®, CPF-2, SL, CPF-4, Responder® (all >8-hr permeation time)

**Boots:** No information

**Respirator:** >0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> - Supplied air

**HEALTH EFFECTS**
**Eyes:** Irritation and burns

**Skin:** Irritation, rash and burning feeling

**Chronic:** Cancer (stomach, skin, lung, blood, spleen, pancreas, and mammary) in animals.

May affect the developing fetus

Thickening and darkening of the skin and warts

**FIRST AID AND DECONTAMINATION**
**Remove** the person from exposure.

**Flush** eyes with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contact lenses if worn.

**Remove** contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with soap and water.

**Transfer** to a medical facility.