

# GUIDE METALS (POWDERS, DUSTS, SHAVINGS, BORINGS, TURNINGS, OR CUTTINGS, ETC.)

## 170

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS

#### FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- May react violently or explosively on contact with water.
- Some are transported in flammable liquids.
- May be ignited by friction, heat, sparks or flames.
- Some of these materials will burn with intense heat.
- Dusts or fumes may form explosive mixtures in air.
- Containers may explode when heated.
- May re-ignite after fire is extinguished.

#### HEALTH

- Oxides from metallic fires are a severe health hazard.
- Inhalation or contact with substance or decomposition products may cause severe injury or death.
- Fire may produce irritating, corrosive and/or toxic gases.
- Runoff from fire control or dilution water may cause environmental contamination.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

- **CALL 911. Then call emergency response telephone number on shipping paper.** If shipping paper not available or no answer, refer to appropriate telephone number listed on the inside back cover.
- Stay upwind, uphill and/or upstream.
- Keep unauthorized personnel away.

#### PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Wear positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Structural firefighters' protective clothing provides thermal protection **but only limited chemical protection.**

#### EVACUATION

##### Immediate precautionary measure

- Isolate spill or leak area in all directions for at least 50 meters (150 feet) for liquids and at least 25 meters (75 feet) for solids.

##### Large Spill

- Consider initial downwind evacuation for at least 50 meters (160 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.



In Canada, an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) may be required for this product. Please consult the shipping paper and/or the ERAP Program Section (page 390).

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## FIRE

- **DO NOT USE WATER, FOAM OR CO<sub>2</sub>.**
- Dousing metallic fires with water will generate hydrogen gas, an extremely dangerous explosion hazard, particularly if fire is in a confined environment (i.e., building, cargo hold, etc.).
- Use DRY sand, graphite powder, dry sodium chloride-based extinguishers, or class D extinguishers.
- Confining and smothering metal fires is preferable rather than applying water.
- If it can be done safely, move undamaged containers away from the area around the fire.

**Fire Involving Tanks or Car/Trailer Loads**

- If impossible to extinguish, protect surroundings and allow fire to burn itself out.

## SPILL OR LEAK

- ELIMINATE all ignition sources (no smoking, flares, sparks or flames) from immediate area.
- Do not touch or walk through spilled material.
- Stop leak if you can do it without risk.
- Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.

## FIRST AID

- Call 911 or emergency medical service.
- Ensure that medical personnel are aware of the material(s) involved and take precautions to protect themselves.
- Move victim to fresh air if it can be done safely.
- Give artificial respiration if victim is not breathing.
- Administer oxygen if breathing is difficult.
- Remove and isolate contaminated clothing and shoes.
- In case of contact with substance, immediately flush skin or eyes with running water for at least 20 minutes.
- Keep victim calm and warm.