

Working Safely with Corrosives

Handout

WORKING SAFELY WITH CORROSIVES

Know the hazards:

- Eye Damage—Mists and splashes can cause irritation, scarring, or blindness.
- Skin Contact—Can cause dermatitis, burns, or eat away tissue.
- Ingestion—Can burn or destroy tissue in mouth, throat, esophagus, or stomach.
- Inhalation—Can cause bronchitis or lung damage.

Know the safety precautions to follow:

- Read the label and safety data sheet (SDS) before working with any corrosive.
- Store corrosives separately in properly labeled containers.
- Work in a properly ventilated area or use respiratory protection.
- Wear all required protective clothing, including eye and face protection, gloves and body protection, and chemical-resistant footwear.

Know the proper action in case of exposure:

- Eye Contact—Flush immediately for at least 15 minutes or longer if indicated on the SDS. Get medical help right away.
- Skin contact—Use the safety shower immediately. Seek medical treatment.
- Ingestion—Do not induce vomiting. Seek medical treatment.
- Inhalation—Evacuate the area, and get to fresh air. Seek medical treatment.

Know the proper emergency response for a leak or spill:

- Read the label and the SDS before handling corrosives.
- Know what substances in your workplace will trigger a fire or explosion if mixed with or exposed to the chemical you are using.
- Have specialized spill kits on hand.
- Only clean up a corrosives spill if you are trained and authorized to do so.

Report a spill to a supervisor or designated emergency responder.

