Corrosion

- Skin Corrosion/Burns
- Eye Damage
- Corrosive to Metals

Corrosives are materials that can attack and chemically destroy exposed body tissues. Corrosives can also damage or even destroy metal.

Most corrosives are either acids or bases. Common acids include hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, chromic acid, acetic acid and hydrofluoric acid. Common bases are ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide (caustic potash) and sodium hydroxide (caustic soda).

Everyone who works with corrosives must be aware of their hazards and how to work safely with them.

How are corrosives hazardous to my health?

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Corrosives are materials that can attack and chemically destroy exposed body tissues. Corrosives can burn and destroy body tissues on contact.

Corrosive materials can severely irritate, or in come cases, burn the eyes. This could result in scars or permanent blindness.

Severe corrosive burns over a large part of the body can cause death.

Some corrosives are toxic and can cause other health problems. Check the MSDS and label on the container for warnings of other possible health effects.

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How are corrosives hazardous to my health?

Breathing in corrosive vapours or particles irritates and burns the inner lining of the nose, throat, windpipe and lungs. In serious cases, this results in pulmonary edema, a buildup of fluid in the lungs that can be fatal.

Swallowing corrosives burns the sensitive lining of the mouth, throat, esophagus and stomach. In nonfatal cases, severe scarring of the throat may occur and could result in losing the ability to swallow..

Corrosives can also damage or even destroy metal.

How are corrosives hazardous to my health?

Many corrosives attack and corrode metals. Contact with corrosives can damage containers, equipment, installations and building components made from unsuitable materials. The rate of metal corrosion is greater when the corrosive is stronger and the temperature is higher. When acids attack metals, hydrogen gas is often given off. This is a flammable gas which can burn or explode if an ignition source is present.

How are corrosives hazardous to my health?

Common bases, such as sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide, can also attack some metals like aluminum, zinc, galvanized metal, and tin to produce hydrogen gas. The MSDS for a particular corrosive should explain which metals or other materials, such as plastics or wood, it will attack.

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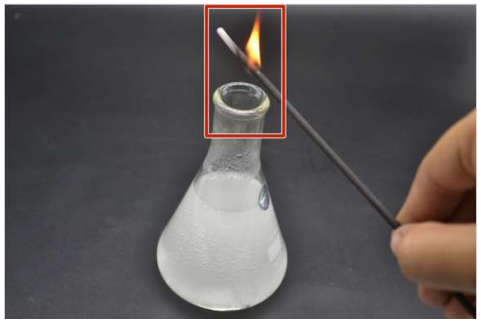

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Health Hazard

- Carcinogen
- Mutagenicity
- Reproductive Toxicity
- Respiratory Sensitizer
- Target Organ Toxicity
- Aspiration Toxicity

Environment

- Aquatic Toxicity

Aquatic toxicity is defined as the study of the effects of a chemical substance to aquatic species which is usually determined on organisms representing the three trophic levels, i.e.

Environment

Aquatic Toxicity

-vertebrates (fish),

-invertebrates (crustaceans as Daphnia)

and plants (algae).