

METHANOL SAFETY HANDLING: A USER'S GUIDE

METHANOL IS....

- A clear and colorless liquid at room temperature and ambient pressure
- Faintly sweet alcohol odor
- Flammable
- Burns with a clear, low heat flame
- Difficult to see during daylight
- Soluble in Water
- Readily absorbs in the body

TYPES OF EXPOSURE:

- Inhalation
 - Breathing in methanol is the most common type of exposure and can lead to serious respiratory conditions if proper ventilation is not used
- Skin contact
 - Methanol should be immediately washed from skin, but absorption time is very slow and therefore poses only a slight risk of toxicity.
- Eye Contact
- Swallowing

METHANOL POISONING:

- Swallowing as little as 50 mL of methanol or less than ¼ cup can be fatal.

- Symptoms of methanol poisoning include:
 - Weakness
 - Dizziness
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
- Prognosis: Outcomes are excellent when asymptomatic methanol-poisoned patients are treated promptly

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY...

- Remove the person to fresh air – IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO
- Immediately flush eyes with gently running water
- Continue for at least 15 minutes
- Ensure all surfaces and crevices are flushed by lifting upper and lower eyelids

PREVENTING FIRE:

- Methanol is flammable between 50°F and 106°F
- One way to prevent a fire if there is a methanol spill is to dilute with at least 4 parts water
- Eliminate all ignition sources, including vehicles
- Restrict access to spill area, move people upwind
- Cat litter can be used as an absorbent for small spills