

TOLUENE

What is Toluene?

- Occurs naturally in crude oil and produced during making of gasoline.
- Automobile emissions are the principal source of toluene in the air.

Common Uses

- Mixture added to gasoline to improve octane ratings.
- Used in paints, coatings, inks, synthetic fragrances, lacquers, adhesives, and rubber.
- Used to make nylon, plastic bottles, and cosmetic nail products.

Chemical Information

- Clear, colorless liquid with a distinctive sharp odor.
- Flammable and dangerous fire risk.
- Toxic through inhalation and ingestion.
- Less dense than water and insoluble.

Stability & Reactivity

- Incompatible with strong oxidizers.
- Reacts with nitrogen oxides to form nitrotoluene, nitrobenzene and nitrophenol.
- Reacts with halogens to form halogenated products.

Handling & Storage

Should be stored outdoors and separate from oxidizing materials.

Hazards Identification

ACUTE EXPOSURE:

- Can cause irritation to eyes, nose, throat, and skin.
- Can cause weakness, exhaustion, confusion, dizziness, anxiety, and headache.
- High concentration may cause loss of coordination, nerve damage, and unconsciousness.
- May cause dilated pupils, anxiety, insomnia, and liver and kidney damage.

CHRONIC EXPOSURE:

- Exposures at less than 200 ppm have been associated with headache, fatigue, and nausea.
- Repeated exposures at 200 to 500 ppm have been associated with loss of coordination, memory loss, and loss of appetite.
- Chronic maternal exposure at high concentrations may cause birth defects.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acute Exposure Guideline Level 1 (AEGL - 1) for toluene is 67 ppm for an 8-hour period.
- Occupational exposures to high levels of toluene can lead to suppression of the nervous system.



For assistance managing exposures to hazardous substances, please call North Carolina Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

In case of a life threatening emergency, dial 9-1-1 immediately.



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