

CONSEQUENCES OF EXPOSURE TO TOXIC AMOUNTS

METHANOL

Methyl alcohol

FORM:	Liquid.
INGESTION:	Highly toxic to humans. Small amounts (1-8 ounces) may cause serious injury or death. May affect the central nervous system resulting in symptoms such as incoordination, sleepiness, & poor concentration; may cause metabolic acidosis*, and affect vision with effects ranging from blurring up to blindness.
EYE:	Slight irritation; temporary tissue injury.
SKIN:	Irritation. Absorbed with repeated contact.
INHALATION:	Vapors accumulate readily. May cause irritation of nose and throat, and effects ranging from headache, sleepiness, blurred vision, and upset stomach to metabolic acidosis, blindness, and death.
EFFECTS FROM REPEATED EXPOSURES:	Sleepiness, incoordination, upset stomach, blurred vision, blindness.
BIRTH DEFECTS:	Positive in animals.
MUTAGENICITY:	Negative in bacteria.
WARNING PROPERTIES:	Inadequate warning properties.
EXPOSURE GUIDELINES:	ACGIH TLV & OSHA PEL = 200 ppm TWA; STEL = 250 ppm; SKIN.

0002-3938

CAS 2/91

*Metabolic acidosis = altered acidity of body fluids which may lead to effects in organs such as the kidney.

R-0002-3938

METHANOL

REPT H

LATEST REVISION: 01/31/91

CAS NUMBER: 0000067-56-1

SYNONYMS

METHYL ALCOHOL

WOOD ALCOHOL

APPEARANCE: COLORLESS LIQUID

MAX AIRBORNE CONC: 21.05% @ 30 DEG. C

ODOR DESCRIPTION: sour, sharp, sweet

WARNING PROPERTIES: Odor is inadequate warning of excessive exposure.

EXPOSURE GUIDELINES:

Methyl alcohol (methanol): ACGIH TLV and OSHA PEL are 200 ppm TWA, 250 ppm STEL, Skin.

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

This section includes possible adverse effects which could occur if this material is not handled in the recommended manner. These effects apply to stated material and may not apply to dilutions or formulations of that material.

EYE

- May cause slight irritation with corneal injury.

SKIN

- Repeated skin exposure may result in absorption of harmful amounts.
- Prolonged or repeated exposure may cause skin irritation.
- A single prolonged exposure is not likely to result in the material being absorbed through skin in harmful amounts.
- The LD50 for skin absorption in rabbits is 20,000 mg/kg.

INGESTION

- Ingestion may cause blindness.
- The oral LD50 for rats is 12,800 mg/kg.
- In humans, amounts as small as 1-8 ounces can cause serious injury or death.
- Effects may be delayed.
- Methanol is highly toxic to humans and ingestion may cause central nervous system depression, metabolic acidosis, and visual disturbances up to blindness. Metabolic acidosis may lead to effects on various organ systems.

ACUTE INHALATION EFFECTS

- Excessive vapor concentrations are readily attainable and may cause serious adverse effects, even death.
- Excessive exposure may cause irritation to upper respiratory tract.
- Effects may be delayed.
- Signs and symptoms of excessive exposure may be abdominal cramps and/or diarrhea.
- Inhalation may cause effects ranging from headache, narcosis & visual

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7R-0002-3938

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impairment to metabolic acidosis, blindness and even death.

SUBCHRONIC EFFECTS

- Repeated exposures may cause CNS effects, impairment of vision up to blindness, gastric distress and headache.

CHRONIC EFFECTS / CARCINOGENICITY

- No relevant information found.

TERATOGENIC EFFECTS

- Has caused birth defects in laboratory animals.
- Slight behavioral effects were seen in the offspring of female rats ingesting methanol during pregnancy.

REPRODUCTIVE EFFECTS

- No relevant information found.

MUTAGENICITY

- Results of in vitro ('test tube') mutagenicity tests have been negative.

END OF REPORT; FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
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