Right to Know

Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **METHYL AMYL ALCOHOL**

Synonyms: Methyl Isobutyl Carbinol

Chemical Name: 2-Pentanol, 4-Methyl-

Date: February 2000 Revision: April 2010

CAS Number: 108-11-2

RTK Substance Number: 1228

DOT Number: UN 2053

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE LAST PAGE

Description and Use

Methyl Amyl Alcohol is a clear, colorless liquid with a mild odor. It is used as a solvent for dyes, oils, gums, resins and waxes, and in brake fluid.

- **ODOR THRESHOLD = 0.07 ppm**
- Odor thresholds vary greatly. Do not rely on odor alone to determine potentially hazardous exposures.

Hazard Summary

Hazard Rating	NJDOH	NFPA
HEALTH	-	2
FLAMMABILITY	-	2
REACTIVITY	-	0

COMBUSTIBLE
POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE

Hazard Rating Key: 0=minimal; 1=slight; 2=moderate; 3=serious; 4=severe

Reasons for Citation

- **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** is on the Right to Know Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by OSHA, ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH and NFPA.

- **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** can affect you when inhaled and may be absorbed through the skin.
- Contact can irritate and burn the skin and eyes.
- Inhaling **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** can irritate the nose and throat causing coughing and wheezing.
- Exposure can cause headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, and passing out.
- Prolonged or repeated exposure can cause drying and cracking of the skin with redness.

SEE GLOSSARY ON PAGE 5.

FIRST AID

Eye Contact

- Immediately flush with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting upper and lower lids. Remove contact lenses, if worn, while rinsing.

Skin Contact

- Quickly remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water.

Inhalation

- Remove the person from exposure.
- Begin rescue breathing (using universal precautions) if breathing has stopped and CPR if heart action has stopped.
- Transfer promptly to a medical facility.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300
NJDEP Hotline: 1-877-927-6337
National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802

Workplace Exposure Limits

OSHA: The legal airborne permissible exposure limit (PEL) is **25 ppm** averaged over an 8-hour workshift.

NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit (REL) is **25 ppm** averaged over a 10-hour workshift and **40 ppm**, not to be exceeded during any 15-minute work period.

ACGIH: The threshold limit value (TLV) is **25 ppm** averaged over an 8-hour workshift and **40 ppm** as a STEL (short-term exposure limit).

- The above exposure limits are for air levels only. When skin contact also occurs, you may be overexposed, even though air levels are less than the limits listed above.

Determining Your Exposure

- Read the product manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and the label to determine product ingredients and important safety and health information about the product mixture.
- For each individual hazardous ingredient, read the New Jersey Department of Health Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, available on the RTK website (www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb) or in your facility's RTK Central File or Hazard Communication Standard file.
- You have a right to this information under the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act and the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Act if you are a public worker in New Jersey, and under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) if you are a private worker.
- The New Jersey Right to Know Act requires most employers to label chemicals in the workplace and requires public employers to provide their employees with information concerning chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) and the PEOSH Hazard Communication Standard (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7) require employers to provide similar information and training to their employees.

This Fact Sheet is a summary of available information regarding the health hazards that may result from exposure. Duration of exposure, concentration of the substance and other factors will affect your susceptibility to any of the potential effects described below.

Health Hazard Information

Acute Health Effects
The following acute (short-term) health effects may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to **Methyl Amyl Alcohol**:

- Contact can irritate and burn the skin and eyes.
- Inhaling **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** can irritate the nose and throat causing coughing and wheezing.
- Exposure can cause headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, and passing out.

Chronic Health Effects
The following chronic (long-term) health effects can occur at some time after exposure to **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** and can last for months or years:

Cancer Hazard
- According to the information presently available to the New Jersey Department of Health, **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** has not been tested for its ability to cause cancer in animals.

Reproductive Hazard
- According to the information presently available to the New Jersey Department of Health, **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** has not been tested for its ability to affect reproduction.

Other Effects
- Prolonged or repeated exposure can cause drying and cracking of the skin with redness.

Medical

Medical Testing
There is no special test for this chemical. However, seek medical attention if illness occurs or overexposure is suspected.

Any evaluation should include a careful history of past and present symptoms with an exam. Medical tests that look for damage already done are not a substitute for controlling exposure.

Request copies of your medical testing. You have a legal right to this information under the OSHA Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records Standard (29 CFR 1910.1020).

Workplace Controls and Practices

Very toxic chemicals, or those that are reproductive hazards or sensitizers, require expert advice on control measures if a less toxic chemical cannot be substituted. Control measures include: (1) enclosing chemical processes for severely irritating and corrosive chemicals, (2) using local exhaust ventilation for chemicals that may be harmful with a single exposure, and (3) using general ventilation to control exposures to skin and eye irritants. For further information on workplace controls, consult the NIOSH document on Control Banding at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ctrlbanding/.

The following work practices are also recommended:

- Label process containers.
- Provide employees with hazard information and training.
- Monitor airborne chemical concentrations.
- Use engineering controls if concentrations exceed recommended exposure levels.
- Provide eye wash fountains and emergency showers.
- Wash or shower if skin comes in contact with a hazardous material.
- Always wash at the end of the workshift.
- Change into clean clothing if clothing becomes contaminated.
- Do not take contaminated clothing home.
- Get special training to wash contaminated clothing.
- Do not eat, smoke, or drink in areas where chemicals are being handled, processed or stored.
- Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics or using the toilet.

In addition, the following may be useful or required:

- Before entering a confined space where **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** may be present, check to make sure that an explosive concentration does not exist.
- Where possible, transfer **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** from drums or other containers to process containers in an enclosed system.

Personal Protective Equipment

The OSHA Personal Protective Equipment Standard (29 CFR 1910.132) requires employers to determine the appropriate personal protective equipment for each hazard and to train employees on how and when to use protective equipment.

The following recommendations are only guidelines and may not apply to every situation.

Gloves and Clothing

- Avoid skin contact with **Methyl Amyl Alcohol**. Wear personal protective equipment made from material which can not be permeated or degraded by this substance. Safety equipment suppliers and manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove and clothing material for your operation.
- Safety equipment manufacturers recommend Butyl, Neoprene, Silver Shield®/4H®, Viton and Barrier® for gloves, and Tychem® BR, Responder®, and TK, or the equivalent, as protective materials for clothing.
- All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.

Eye Protection

- Wear indirect-vent, impact and splash resistant goggles when working with liquids.
- If additional protection is needed for the entire face, use in combination with a face shield. A face shield should not be used without another type of eye protection.

Respiratory Protection

Improper use of respirators is dangerous. Respirators should only be used if the employer has implemented a written program that takes into account workplace conditions, requirements for worker training, respirator fit testing, and medical exams, as described in the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

- Where the potential exists for exposure over **25 ppm**, use a NIOSH approved supplied-air respirator with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode. For increased protection use in combination with an auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus or an emergency escape air cylinder.
- Exposure to **400 ppm** is immediately dangerous to life and health. If the possibility of exposure above **400 ppm** exists, use a NIOSH approved self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode equipped with an emergency escape air cylinder.

Fire Hazards

If employees are expected to fight fires, they must be trained and equipped as stated in the OSHA Fire Brigades Standard (29 CFR 1910.156).

- **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** is a COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID.
- Use dry chemical, CO_2, water spray or alcohol-resistant foam as extinguishing agents.
- POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE.
- Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool and to disperse vapors.
- Vapor is heavier than air and may travel a distance to cause a fire or explosion far from the source.
- **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** may form an ignitable vapor/air mixture in closed tanks or containers.

Spills and Emergencies

If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. The OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (29 CFR 1910.120) may apply.

If **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** is spilled or leaked, take the following steps:

- Evacuate personnel and secure and control entrance to the area.
- Eliminate all ignition sources.
- Absorb liquids in dry sand, earth, or a similar material and place into sealed containers for disposal.
- Ventilate and wash area after clean-up is complete.
- Keep **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** out of confined spaces, such as sewers, because of the possibility of an explosion.
- It may be necessary to contain and dispose of **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** as a HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.

Handling and Storage

Prior to working with **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** reacts violently with POTASSIUM BUTOXIDE.
- **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); ALKALI METALS (such as LITHIUM, SODIUM and POTASSIUM); STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC and NITRIC); ACID CHLORIDES; NITROGEN COMPOUNDS; and HALOGENATED HYDROCARBONS (such as METHYLENE CHLORIDE and 1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE).
- **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** may form *explosive peroxides* when distilled, evaporated or concentrated.
- Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area.
- Sources of ignition, such as smoking and open flames, are prohibited where **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** is used, handled, or stored.
- Metal containers involving the transfer of **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** should be grounded and bonded.
- Use explosion-proof electrical equipment and fittings wherever **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** is used, handled, manufactured, or stored.
- Use only non-sparking tools and equipment, especially when opening and closing containers of **Methyl Amyl Alcohol**.
- **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** may accumulate static electricity.

Occupational Health Information Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health offers multiple services in occupational health. These services include providing informational resources, educational materials, public presentations, and industrial hygiene and medical investigations and evaluations.

For more information, please contact:

New Jersey Department of Health
Right to Know
PO Box 368
Trenton, NJ 08625-0368
Phone: 609-984-2202
Fax: 609-984-7407
E-mail: rtk@doh.state.nj.us
Web address: http://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb

GLOSSARY

ACGIH is the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. They publish guidelines called Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for exposure to workplace chemicals.

Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs) are established by the EPA. They describe the risk to humans resulting from once-in-a lifetime, or rare, exposure to airborne chemicals.

Boiling point is the temperature at which a substance can change its physical state from a liquid to a gas.

A **carcinogen** is a substance that causes cancer.

The **CAS number** is unique, identifying number, assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service, to a specific chemical.

CFR is the Code of Federal Regulations, which are the regulations of the United States government.

A **combustible** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that will burn.

A **corrosive** substance is a gas, liquid or solid that causes destruction of human skin or severe corrosion of containers.

The **critical temperature** is the temperature above which a gas cannot be liquefied, regardless of the pressure applied.

DEP is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

DOT is the Department of Transportation, the federal agency that regulates the transportation of chemicals.

EPA is the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency responsible for regulating environmental hazards.

ERG is the Emergency Response Guidebook. It is a guide for emergency responders for transportation emergencies involving hazardous substances.

Emergency Response Planning Guideline (ERPG) values provide estimates of concentration ranges where one reasonably might anticipate observing adverse effects.

A **fetus** is an unborn human or animal.

A **flammable** substance is a solid, liquid, vapor or gas that will ignite easily and burn rapidly.

The **flash point** is the temperature at which a liquid or solid gives off vapor that can form a flammable mixture with air.

IARC is the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a scientific group.

Ionization Potential is the amount of energy needed to remove an electron from an atom or molecule. It is measured in electron volts.

IRIS is the Integrated Risk Information System database on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals, maintained by federal EPA.

LEL or **Lower Explosive Limit**, is the lowest concentration of a combustible substance (gas or vapor) in the air capable of continuing an explosion.

mg/m^3 means milligrams of a chemical in a cubic meter of air. It is a measure of concentration (weight/volume).

A **mutagen** is a substance that causes mutations. A **mutation** is a change in the genetic material in a body cell. Mutations can lead to birth defects, miscarriages, or cancer.

NFPA is the National Fire Protection Association. It classifies substances according to their fire and explosion hazard.

NIOSH is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It tests equipment, evaluates and approves respirators, conducts studies of workplace hazards, and proposes standards to OSHA.

NTP is the National Toxicology Program which tests chemicals and reviews evidence for cancer.

OSHA is the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards.

PEOSHA is the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards in public workplaces.

Permeated is the movement of chemicals through protective materials.

ppm means parts of a substance per million parts of air. It is a measure of concentration by volume in air.

Protective Action Criteria (PAC) are values established by the Department of Energy and are based on AEGLs and ERPGs. They are used for emergency planning of chemical release events.

A **reactive** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that releases energy under certain conditions.

STEL is a Short Term Exposure Limit which is usually a 15-minute exposure that should not be exceeded at any time during a work day.

A **teratogen** is a substance that causes birth defects by damaging the fetus.

UEL or **Upper Explosive Limit** is the highest concentration in air above which there is too much fuel (gas or vapor) to begin a reaction or explosion.

Vapor Density is the ratio of the weight of a given volume of one gas to the weight of another (usually *Air*), at the same temperature and pressure.

The **vapor pressure** is a force exerted by the vapor in equilibrium with the solid or liquid phase of the same substance. The higher the vapor pressure the higher concentration of the substance in air.

Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Emergency Responders Quick Reference

Common Name: **METHYL AMYL ALCOHOL**

Synonyms: Methyl Isobutyl Carbinol; 4-Methyl-2-Pentanol
CAS No: 108-11-2
Molecular Formula: $C_6H_{14}O$
RTK Substance No: 1228
Description: Clear, colorless liquid with a mild odor

HAZARD DATA

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
2 - Health **2 - Fire** **0 - Reactivity** **DOT#:** UN 2053 **ERG Guide #:** 129 **Hazard Class:** 3 (Flammable)	COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID Use dry chemical, CO_2, water spray or alcohol-resistant foam as extinguishing agents. POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool and to disperse vapors. Vapor is heavier than air and may travel a distance to cause a fire or explosion far from the source. **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** may form an ignitable vapor/air mixture in closed tanks or containers.	**Methyl Amyl Alcohol** reacts violently with POTASSIUM BUTOXIDE. **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); ALKALI METALS (such as LITHIUM, SODIUM and POTASSIUM); STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC and NITRIC); ACID CHLORIDES; NITROGEN COMPOUNDS; and HALOGENATED HYDROCARBONS (such as METHYLENE CHLORIDE and 1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE). **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** may form *explosive peroxides* when distilled, evaporated or concentrated. **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** may accumulate static electricity.

SPILL/LEAKS

Isolation Distance:

Spill: 50 meters (150 feet)

Fire: 800 meters (1/2 mile)

Absorb liquids in dry sand, earth, or a similar material and place into sealed containers for disposal.

Use only non-sparking tools and equipment, especially when opening and closing containers of **Methyl Amyl Alcohol**.

Keep **Methyl Amyl Alcohol** out of confined spaces, such as sewers, because of the possibility of an explosion.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Odor Threshold:	0.07 ppm
Flash Point:	106°F (41°C)
LEL:	1%
UEL:	5.5%
Auto Ignition Temp:	858°F (459°C)
Vapor Density:	3.5 (air = 1)
Vapor Pressure:	3 mm Hg at 68°F (20°C)
Specific Gravity:	0.8 (water = 1)
Water Solubility:	Slightly soluble
Boiling Point:	266° to 271°F (130° to 133°C)
Freezing Point:	-130°F (-90°C)
Molecular Weight:	102.2

EXPOSURE LIMITS

OSHA:	25 ppm, 8-hr TWA
NIOSH:	25 ppm, 10-hr TWA; 40 ppm, STEL
ACGIH:	25 ppm, 8-hr TWA; 40 ppm, STEL
IDLH:	400 ppm

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Gloves:	Butyl, Neoprene, SilverShield®/4H®, Viton and Barrier® (>8-hr breakthrough)
Coveralls:	Tychem® BR, Responder® and TK (>8-hr breakthrough)
Respirator:	>25 ppm - SCBA

HEALTH EFFECTS

Eyes:	Irritation and burns
Skin:	Irritation and burns
Inhalation:	Nose and throat irritation with coughing and wheezing Headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, and passing out

FIRST AID AND DECONTAMINATION

Remove the person from exposure.

Flush eyes with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contact lenses if worn.

Quickly remove contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water.

Begin artificial respiration if breathing has stopped and CPR if necessary.

Transfer promptly to a medical facility.