

# sulphuric acid

## What is Sulphuric Acid?

Sulphuric acid is a colorless, thick and oily liquid acid that can cause corrosive burns to body tissue.

## How is Sulphuric Acid used?

Sulphuric acid is used in the production of agricultural fertilizers and alum, and in the pulp and paper industry.

## What are the potential hazards?

Sulphuric acid can be corrosive to all tissues, including the skin, eyes, nose, mucous membranes, and respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts. The eyes are particularly sensitive and blindness can result from contact. Ingestion may cause hemorrhaging in the stomach or intestines.

The severity of the health effects depends on how strong the solution is, how long the contact lasts and, in the case of skin burns, how extensive the area of contact is. Severe exposures can cause major and even fatal skin burns. Respiratory effects of acute exposure range from tickling in the nose and throat, coughing and sneezing, to reflex bronchospasm (asthma-like effect) and pulmonary edema (fluid in the lungs). Death may be caused by a large exposure to sulphuric acid.

## Is Sulphuric Acid flammable or explosive?

Sulphuric acid is not flammable or explosive. However, it can react with many metals to generate flammable and explosive hydrogen gas and at high temperatures it forms toxic mists or fogs.

## What are the Emergency Response procedures?

In the event of a spill or accidental discharge, the fire department will isolate the area of the spill. It will be contained and further leakage will be prevented. They may evacuate the area as sulphuric acid is a corrosive material. The spill itself will be contained with dry earth, sand, or other non-combustible material. Limestone will be slowly added to the spill to neutralize the acid. The neutral solid material should be disposed of in the appropriate containers.

## What should you do if you are exposed to Sulphuric Acid?

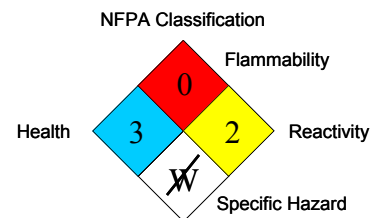
### For eye contact:

- Check for and remove contact lenses. **IMMEDIATELY** flush eyes with running water for 15-30 minutes, keeping eyelids open. Seek immediate medical attention.

### For minor skin contact:

- In case of contact with the chemical, remove contaminated clothing as soon as possible while protecting your own hands and body. Flush exposed skin with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. Gently and thoroughly wash the contaminated skin with running water and non-abrasive soap. Use warm water if available. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.

# fact sheet



### **For major skin contact:**

- Immediately flush skin with water and removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Use warm water if available and continue flushing for at least 30 minutes. Obtain immediate medical attention. Contaminated clothing should be discarded in a manner which limits further exposure.

### **For minor inhalation:**

- Use appropriate respiratory protection to evacuate the affected individual from the area of overexposure. Loosen tight clothing. Allow the person to rest in a well ventilated area. Give artificial respiration if breathing stops. Obtain immediate medical attention.

### **For severe inhalation:**

- Use proper respiratory protection to evacuate affected individuals to a safe area as soon as possible. Loosen tight clothing around the person's neck and waist. If breathing is difficult administer oxygen. If the person is not breathing, perform artificial respiration and obtain immediate medical attention.

### **For ingestion:**

- Do not induce vomiting. Careful removal of the substance from the stomach by medical personnel is required. Call a physician or poison control center and seek immediate medical attention. If tolerated and victim is conscious, give no more than 1 cup of milk or water to rinse the mouth and throat and dilute the stomach contents. No more than 8 ounces (1 cup) in adults and 4 ounces (1/2 cup) in children are recommended to minimize the risk of vomiting.

## Where can I get more information?

For more information on this product, or other Agrium products, please call Agrium directly at (403) 225-7000.

Information can also be found at the following websites:

• **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR):**  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)

• **Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA):** [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

• **Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety:** [www.ccohs.ca](http://www.ccohs.ca)

## Agrium

13131 Lake Fraser Drive S.E.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2Y 7E8

Telephone:  
(403) 225-7000

[www.agrium.com](http://www.agrium.com)

## What should you do in the event of a spill?

Follow any special instructions given over the radio, T.V., or by someone in authority.

If there is a fire or an explosion, stay away from the site. Follow standard, marked emergency routes or directions from police to travel to your destination. ■