What is Ammonia (NH₃)?

- It originates from man-made and natural sources.
- It is one of the most common chemicals manufactured in the U.S.
- It is produced in the environment when organic material decomposes.

Common Uses
Fertilizers; household cleaning products; manufacture of plastics, dyes, explosives, pesticides and other chemicals.

Chemical Information
- Colorless gas with a distinct odor.
- Corrosive.
- Soluble in water, alcohol, and ether.
- Combustible.
- Caustic.
- Lighter than air, liquifies under pressure.

Handling & Storage
- Ammonia is stored and shipped in pressurized containers and labeled “Nonflammable Compressed Gas.”
- Liquid ammonia is stored in steel drums.

Hazards Identification

ACUTE EXPOSURE:
- Most commonly occurs when individuals inhale the gas.
- High levels can cause irritation and serious burns to the skin and eyes; and in the mouth, throat and lungs; and death.
- Contact with liquid ammonia, which is stored below -28° F, can cause frostbite, and burns and blindness if it contacts the eyes.
- Common exposure symptoms also include headache, shortness of breath, and vomiting.

CHRONIC EXPOSURE:
- Can cause asthma like symptoms and lead to lung damage.
- May cause chronic irritation of the respiratory tract.
- May also result in chronic cough, asthma, and lung fibrosis.

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.