

# AMMONIA



## What is Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)?

- 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.**



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