FORMALDEHYDE

Chemical Information
- Colorless, flammable gas at room temperature.
- Distinct, pungent smell.
- Highly toxic by inhalation.
- Moderate fire risk.
- Strong irritant and human carcinogen.

Uses
- Preservative in foods; found in antiseptics, medicines, and cosmetics; to make fertilizer, paper, plywood and urea-formaldehyde resins.

Hazards Identification

ACUTE EXPOSURE:
- Rapid onset of eye, nose and throat irritation, which can result in cough, chest pain, shortness of breath, and wheezing.
- Significant inflammation of the lower respiratory tract, if exposed to high concentrations.
- Lung injury may continue to worsen for 12 hours or more after exposure.
- May result in corneal damage if solution splashes in eye.

CHRONIC EXPOSURE:
- Can cause asthma and contact dermatitis in sensitive individuals.

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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