

SODIUM HYDROXIDE

Chemical Information

- Also known as lye.
- White crystalline odorless solid.
- Strongly irritating.
- Very corrosive.
- Odorless.
- Breaks down easily by reacting with other chemicals in the air.

Uses

- Small amounts are sometimes used in drain and oven cleaners.
- Manufactured substance used to make soaps, rayon, paper, explosives, dyestuffs, and petroleum products.

Hazards Identification

ACUTE EXPOSURE:

- Direct contact causes thermal and chemical burns.
- Can cause severe burns and permanent damage to any tissue it touches.
- Can cause skin and eye irritation.
- Ingestion of solid or liquid sodium hydroxide can cause spontaneous vomiting, chest and abdominal pain, and difficulty swallowing.
- Corrosive injury to the mouth, throat, esophagus, and stomach is very rapid and may result in perforation, hemorrhage, and narrowing of the gastrointestinal tract.
- Can cause swelling of the larynx and an accumulation of fluid in the lungs if inhaled.

CHRONIC EXPOSURE:

- May lead to ulceration of the nasal passages.
- Can lead to skin inflammation.



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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