

2-MERCAPTOETHANOL

Synonyms: beta-Mercaptoethanol; 2-Hydroxyethyl Mercaptan; 2-Hydroxyethanethiol; Thioglycol.

TYPES OF HAZARD/ EXPOSURE	ACUTE HAZARDS/ SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION	FIRST AID/ FIRE FIGHTING
FIRE	Highly flammable. Vapors may be heavier than air. They can spread along the ground and collect in low or confined areas.	NO open flames, NO sparks and NO smoking. DO NOT contact with oxidants.	For small fires, use dry chemical, carbon dioxide, or water spray. For large fires, use dry chemical, carbon dioxide, alcohol-resistant foam, or water spray.
EXPLOSION	Vapors may form an explosive mixture with air. Containers may explode in the heat of a fire.	Closed system, ventilation, explosion proof electrical equipment and lighting. DO NOT use compressed air.	Cool containers with flooding quantities of water until well after fire is out.
EXPOSURE		STRICT HYGIENE!	IN ALL CASES CONSULT A DOCTOR!
•INHALATION	Inhalation of high concentrations may cause central nervous system effects characterized by nausea, headache, dizziness, unconsciousness and coma. May cause respiratory tract irritation. May cause dyspnea (difficult or labored breathing).	Ventilation or local exhaust	Remove from exposure and move to fresh air immediately. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Get medical aid. Do NOT use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
•SKIN	May be fatal if absorbed through the skin. May cause irritation with burning pain, itching and redness.	Wear protective gloves	Get medical aid immediately. Immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse.
•EYES	May cause severe eye irritation. May result in corneal injury.	Wear appropriate eye protection and face shield.	Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, occasionally lifting the upper and lower eyelids. Get medical aid immediately.
•INGESTION	Harmful if swallowed. May cause gastrointestinal irritation with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. May cause muscle paralysis, respiratory failure, and possible death.	DO NOT eat, drink or smoke during work.	Do not induce vomiting. If victim is conscious and alert, give 2-4 cupfuls of milk or water. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Get medical aid immediately.

Chemical Dangers: Combustion generates toxic fumes. Decomposition will include Carbon monoxide, oxides of sulfur, irritating and toxic fumes and gases, carbon dioxide. Will react with strong oxidants causing fire and explosion hazards.

Physical Dangers: Vapors may be heavier than air. They can spread along the ground and collect in low or confined areas.

Storage: Keep away from heat, sparks, and flame. Keep away from sources of ignition. Store in a tightly closed container and away from strong oxidizers.

Handling, Containment Devices and PPE: Use in exhaust hood with nitrile chemical resistant gloves (if heavy exposure is anticipated then contact Safety and Health for other glove options) and chemical goggles. If a splash hazard is present, a face shield is also required.

Waste Disposal: Collect and store in a glass container labeled with the following "Hazardous Waste – Mercaptoethanol." Call Safety and health at x5069 on the Health Science campus and x3600 on the Main Campus for pick up.

Emergency Spill Procedures and Decontamination: Call x77 on the Health Science Campus and x2600 for Campus Police on the Main Campus.