

BENZENE

Synonyms: Benzol, Phenyl hydride

TYPES OF HAZARD/ EXPOSURE	ACUTE HAZARDS/ SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION	FIRST AID/ FIRE FIGHTING
FIRE	Highly flammable.	NO open flames, NO sparks, and NO smoking.	Powder, AFFF, foam, carbon dioxide.
EXPLOSION	Vapor/air mixtures are explosive. Risk of fire and explosion: see Chemical Dangers.	Closed system, ventilation, explosion-proof electrical equipment and lighting. Do NOT use compressed air for filling, discharging, or handling. Use non-sparking hand tools. Prevent build-up of electrostatic charges (e.g., by grounding).	In case of fire: keep drums, etc., cool by spraying with water.
EXPOSURE		AVOID ALL CONTACT!	
•INHALATION	Dizziness. Drowsiness. Headache. Nausea. Shortness of breath. Convulsions. Unconsciousness.	Ventilation or local exhaust	Fresh air, rest. Refer for medical attention.
•SKIN	MAY BE ABSORBED! Dry skin. Redness. Pain. (Further see Inhalation).	Protective gloves. Protective clothing.	Remove contaminated clothes. Rinse skin with plenty of water or shower. Refer for medical attention.
•EYES	Redness. Pain.	Face shield and eye protection	First rinse with plenty of water for several minutes (remove contact lenses if easily possible), then take to a doctor.
•INGESTION	Abdominal pain. Sore throat. Vomiting. (Further see Inhalation).	Do not eat, drink, or smoke during work.	Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting. Refer for medical attention.

Chemical Dangers: Reacts violently with oxidants, nitric acid, sulfuric acid and halogens causing fire and explosion hazard. Attacks plastic and rubber.

Physical Dangers: The vapor is heavier than air and may travel along the ground; distant ignition possible. As a result of flow, agitation, etc., electrostatic charges can be generated.

Storage: Incompatibilities and reactivities include strong oxidizers, many fluorides & perchlorates, nitric acid.

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

Waste Disposal: Collect and store in a glass container labeled with the following "Hazardous Waste - Benzene." 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 x 77 on the Health Science Campus and x 2600 for Campus Police on the Main Campus.