

## **Sodium Hydroxide (Caustic Soda) – First Aid and Emergency Response**

Sodium Hydroxide is highly corrosive, causes burns and can lead to severe damage to respiratory tract and lungs. It is a colourless liquid, very harmful to eyes.

### **FIRST AID:**

**INGESTION:** If an exposed person is conscious, gives him/ her to drink water to dilute. Don't induce the vomit, but if this happens wash and give him/ her to drink. Keep the person warm and at rest. Call a physician as soon as possible.

**EYE CONTACT:** Wash eyes immediately with large amount of water, occasionally lifting upper and lower lids, until no evidence of chemical remains (at least 15 minutes). Continue irrigating with water until ready to transport to physician. Cover with sterile bandages.

**SKIN CONTACT:** Remove contaminated clothing, and shoes. Flush affected area with large amounts of water (preferably a safety shower), until no evidence of chemical remains (for 15minutes). For burns, cover affected area securely with sterile, dry, loose fitting dressing. Do not attempt neutralization or ointments to damaged skin.

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### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE:**

- Do not touch spilled material.
- Stop leak if possible without personal risk. For small spills, collect spilled material in appropriate container for disposal and consider absorbing with sand. Move containers away from spill to a safe area. For large spills, dike for later disposal.
- If possible, do not allow material to enter sewers, streams, ponds or storm conduits as concentrated solutions will seriously injure aquatic life.
- Keep unnecessary people away, isolate hazard area and deny entry. Contain in as small an area as possible, such as a holding area for dilution and neutralization. Contain spill in plastic drums when available.