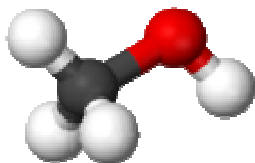
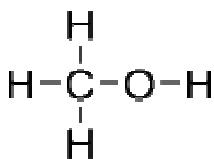


CHEMICALS OF INTEREST by Les A. Cartier

Methanol CH₃OH



Description:

- Aliphatic Alcohol
- Common Synonyms: Wood Alcohol, Wood Naphtha, Methylol, Carbinol, Wood Spirits
- CAS # 67-56-1 Exposure Limits 200 ppm TWA, 250 ppm STEL, 6000 ppm IDLH
- Used in many applications but as a primary ingredient in the new alternative gasoline's
- Soluble in water, vapors heavier than air, will travel to ignition sources accumulate in building and sewer causing an explosion hazard.
- Listed as a Poison-Class B, harmful if ingested or absorbed through skin
- Methanol is extremely flammable, flammable range 6-36.5% in air, Flash Point 52° F, may not be visible to the naked eye in the daytime.
- Methanol is a stable material and polymerization will not occur.

Overview:

Methanol is a colorless volatile liquid with a sweet pungent odor similar to ethyl alcohol. This causes eye, skin and respiratory system irritation. Avoid liquid, mist or vapor contact. Vapor inhalation or liquid penetration of the skin may cause central nervous system depression.

Emergency Actions:

Fire Fighting requires full turnout gear with SCBA. If foam is to be used it must be Alcohol Resistant. (AR-AFFF) If the fire involves tanks, rail car or trailer loads, fight the fire from maximum distance or used unmanned monitors.

Small spill or leaks can be controlled by absorption using a non-combustible material and non sparking tools to clean-up. For larger spills, dike the material without placing yourself at an unnecessary risk. All cleanup equipment handling the product must be grounded and/or spark resistant. Water spray may reduce vapors but may not prevent ignition in closed spaces. Full protective clothing with SCBA should be considered depending on the size of the spill.

For further information on this chemical go to:

www.methanol.org/pdfFrame.cfm?pdf=MethanolSafeHandlingManualOct2008.pdf