



LOSS CONTROL HAZARD ALERT

1-Bromopropane

1-Bromopropane, a potentially serious health hazard was recently identified by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). These agencies are reporting a link between 1-Bromopropane and neurological & reproductive illnesses as well as cancer. It is also a respiratory and eye irritant. Neurologic effects include headaches, dizziness, loss of consciousness, slurred speech, confusion, and loss of motor skills such as walking.

1-Bromopropane, also known as n-propyl bromide, is a highly volatile, flammable solvent used in many industries such as dry cleaning, foam furniture manufacturing, asphalt production, aircraft maintenance, and synthetic fiber manufacturing. It is commonly used as a degreasing agent and solvent for metals, plastics, electronics, optics and in adhesive spray applications.

Currently, federal OSHA does not have a specific exposure regulation for this chemical. California OSHA and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, have adopted a time-weighted worker exposure limit of 5 parts per million.

To prevent or limit worker injuries and illnesses at your business we are suggesting the following:

- ⇒ Determine if you are using 1-bromopropane containing products. Carefully review product labels and safety data sheets (SDS). If in doubt, contact the product manufacturer to make this determination.
- ⇒ If you are using products containing this substance switch to less toxic alternative chemicals or methods.
- ⇒ If these practices cannot be adopted then implement effective worker protective measures including:
 - ◆ Training and educating your supervisors and workers on the hazards & health effects of 1-Bromopropane and required protective measures to prevent injuries and illnesses.
 - ◆ Isolate the work areas using this chemical. This limits the number of employees that may be exposed to it.
 - ◆ For Dry Cleaning operators, have a qualified technician manage the conversion of machines that previously used a different solvent and inspect for leaks once completed.
 - ◆ Use a forced air, push-pull (fresh air and local exhaust) ventilation system to reduce your worker's exposure to airborne 1-bromopropane vapors.
 - ◆ Use NIOSH approved air-purifying or supplied air respirators in the event local exhaust ventilation cannot be used or is ineffective in reducing worker exposure to below acceptable limits. Additionally, a written respiratory protection program should be developed and implemented.
 - ◆ Review applicable Federal and State OSHA regulations to assure that all regulatory and best practice methods are being followed.
 - ◆ Assess and monitor worker airborne exposures to 1-bromopropane to determine if additional engineering, administrative and personal protective measures are needed based on the monitoring results.
 - ◆ Select and wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including face protection and gloves based upon the work to be performed and the product's Safety Data Sheets.
 - ◆ Complete job specific hazard assessments and implement additional safe work practices as identified from these assessments

Further information can be found on [NIOSH's](#) website.

Everest Loss Control offers services to help you in your loss prevention efforts. If you would like more information about these services, www.everestregroup.com.

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