Emergencies Involving Corrosives

Corrosives are harsh acids and caustics that can harm the human body very quickly.

If a Corrosive gets on the skin...

- Rinse (don't scrub) the affected area for 15 to 20 minutes, even if you feel no pain from the corrosive.
- Remove clothing with corrosive spills on it at once. Use gloves.
- Do not apply burn ointments or neutralizing solutions.
- After thorough rinsing, cover the burn with a sterile dressing.
- Get medical attention.

If Corrosive Vapors Are Inhaled...

- Get to fresh air immediately.
- Get medical attention.

If a Corrosive Is Swallowed...

- Get medical assistance immediately.
- Have someone call the local poisons information centre.
- Don't drink or eat anything unless the label instructions or a medical professional tell you to.

Corrosive emergencies demand quick action. Learn what to do now...

- Study the label and material safety data sheet of each corrosive you use.
- Learn how to handle, store and dispose of corrosives.
- Learn company procedures for emergencies involving corrosives.
- Learn the locations of eyewash stations, safety showers and fresh air sources.
- Know who to contact to get immediate medical attention.

For Other Emergencies...

Handle a spill, leak, fire or other emergency yourself only if it is small and you are trained to do so. Otherwise, get everyone out of the area and notify your supervisor.