

## Ammonia Gas – Usage, Health Effects, First Aid and Response

Ammonia Gas is an irritating, flammable and colourless liquefied compressed gas packaged in cylinders.

**USAGE:** It is used as refrigerant gas, raw material in Fertilizers, cleaning agent, manufacturing of nitric acid, cyanide, urea and fibers etc.

### **POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS:**

**EYE CONTACT:** Exposure to Ammonia can cause moderate to severe eye irritation.

**INHALATION:** Ammonia is severely irritating to nose, throat, and lungs. Symptoms may include burning sensations, coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, headache and nausea. Overexposure may also cause central nervous system effects including unconsciousness. Vocal chords are particularly vulnerable to corrosive effects of high concentrations.

**SKIN CONTACT:** Vapor contact may cause irritation and burns. Contact with liquid may cause freezing of the tissue, frostbite, or severe injury.

**FIRST AID:** Move victim to fresh air. Remove contaminated clothing and shoes.

Flush eyes and affected areas with huge amount of water.

Give artificial respiration if victim is not breathing/ administer oxygen.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE:**

Shut off source of leak, if possible. Isolate leaking cylinder/ source. Provide adequate ventilation to maintain the concentration below exposure limit.

Evacuate all personnel from leakage affected area. Isolate the area, until dispersion of gas.

Use Dry Chemical Powder (DCP) to extinguish the fire. Water spray can also be preferred.

Wear the chemical protective clothing with SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) with face mask, in areas of release, if possible.