

Argon Gas – Usage, Health Effects, First Aid and Response

Argon is an inert gas, which is colourless and odourless. It is also the third most common gas in the earth's atmosphere, after Nitrogen and Oxygen.

USAGE: Argon is widely used in the manufacturing industry, health sector and also used for lighting and TIG welding purpose.

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS:

EYE CONTACT: Contact with rapidly expanding gas may cause burns or frostbite. Contact with cryogenic liquid can cause frostbite and cryogenic burns.

INHALATION: May cause dizziness. Asphyxiant.

Can cause vomiting.

May result in unconsciousness.

May cause excitation, excess salivation, rapid breathing.

May cause headaches and drowsiness.

May cause stinging of the nose and throat.

SKIN CONTACT: Can cause frostbite (liquid form).

FIRST AID: Remove contaminated clothing.

Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes

Treat for frostbite if necessary by gently warming affected areas.

Move exposed person to fresh air. If not breathing, if breathing is irregular or if respiratory arrest occurs, provide artificial respiration or oxygen by trained personnel.

Loosen tight clothing such as a collar, tie, belt or waistband.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Apply water from a safe distance to cool container and protect surrounding area. If involved in fire, shut off flow immediately if it can be done without risk.

Evacuate all personnel from leakage affected area. Immediately contact emergency personnel.

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