

Naphtha – Usage, Health Effects, First Aid and Response

Naphtha is a colorless to reddish-brown volatile aromatic liquid, which is extremely flammable by nature.

USAGE: Naphtha is used by petrochemical companies in steam crackers and as a solvent in chemical industries. Another use is producing high octane gasoline through the catalytic reforming method where it is basically used as feedstock.

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS:

EYE CONTACT: May cause eye irritation, stinging, watering, redness and swelling.

SKIN CONTACT: Prolonged or repeated skin contact tends to remove skin oils, possibly leading to irritation and dermatitis.

INGESTION: May irritate mouth, throat, stomach and also lead to severe lung damage, respiratory failure and even death.

FIRST AID: Flush the eyes immediately with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes.

In case of skin contact, immediately flush skin with large amounts of water. Remove contaminated clothing promptly and launder before reuse. Wash exposed area thoroughly with soap and water.

This material may cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and restlessness. **DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING.** Obtain medical attention promptly. If vomiting occurs spontaneously, keep head below hips to prevent aspiration.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Do not walk through spilled naphtha. Contain the spilled material to ensure runoff does not reach a drainage ditch or waterway.

Immediately contact emergency personnel. An accidental release will cause an immediate fire or explosion hazard. Isolate hazard area and restrict entry to emergency crew.

Use water spray, alcohol-resistant foam, dry chemical or carbon dioxide. Do not use solid water stream as it may scatter and spread fire.