

FORMALDEHYDE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS/CLASS OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

- Formaldehyde (37%) or Formalin

HAZARD DESCRIPTION

- Regulated Carcinogen. Combustible Liquid, Corrosive, Sensitizer

PROTECTION PROCESS

- Good laboratory technique
- Skin and eye protection should be used when working with formaldehyde
- If airborne exposures are suspected, contact EHS (292-1284) for consultation

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Eye protection should be selected on potential for splash and exposure. Safety glasses with side shields are sufficient when only low splash hazard exist (eg. placing a tissue sample in a container). Goggles should be worn if using or transferring larger quantities.
- Disposable or lightweight nitrile, neoprene, natural rubber or PVC gloves provide protection from incidental contact. Heavier gloves should be used when extended handling of contaminated or preserved materials or immersion is likely.
- A chemically resistant apron should be used when transferring or using large quantities and splash is likely.

ENGINEERING/VENTILATION CONTROLS

- Work with formaldehyde in a fume hood or with or local exhaust ventilation.
- Use only in an area equipped with a safety shower and eyewash.

SPECIAL HANDLING PROCEDURES AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Keep in a tightly closed container.
- Separate from oxidizing agents.
- Whenever formaldehyde is mixed and stored outside its original container, it must be clearly marked with its concentration and a description of its hazards.

SPILL AND ACCIDENT PROCEDURES

- Absorb incidental small spills. Collect and submit for waste disposal by EHS. (Do not attempt cleanup if you feel unsure of your ability to do so or if you perceive the risk to be greater than normal laboratory operations.
- In case of large spills, notify others in area, and evacuate room/immediate area. Call EHS 292-1284 for hazmat response. Post area and prevent unnecessary entry until EHS response team arrives. Provide assistance to EHS as requested.
- If splashed on an individual or in eyes flush for 15 minutes with copious quantities of water.

WASTE DISPOSAL

- Dispose of waste through OSU-EHS (292-1284).

SPECIAL APPROVAL REQUIRED

- Recommended.

DECONTAMINATION

- Rinse exposed area of any skin contact with copious amounts of water.

DESIGNATED AREA

- Recommended.