



Fertilizer Safety & Security Council
Conseil de la sécurité en fertilisation

First Aid

CARE IN THE EVENT OF ANHYDROUS AMMONIA EXPOSURE

Delivering proper first aid in the event of an injury from exposure to anhydrous ammonia is critical. High concentrations of anhydrous ammonia can cause chemical burns to the eyes, lungs and skin. The primary first aid treatment is flushing with fresh, **clean water**.

TREATING INHALATION

The primary hazard from anhydrous ammonia is inhalation of vapours. An inhalation injury can damage lungs and may be life-threatening. Staying out of a cloud of gaseous ammonia is vital. In the event of an inhalation or ingestion injury, take the following steps:

- 1** Move the person to fresh air and begin decontamination with water as soon as possible.
- 2** If conscious and breathing, help the person drink as much water as possible to flush their system of ammonia.
- 3** If oxygen is required, get proper, qualified help immediately to administer oxygen.
- 4** Do not induce vomiting. If a person is vomiting, keep the head lower than the waist to prevent further ammonia from getting into the lungs.
- 5** Transport the victim for more medical assistance once they are decontaminated.
- 6** Tell the medical facility in advance to prepare for the arrival of an ammonia injury victim



TREATING AMMONIA BURNS

Due to its cold temperature and corrosive properties, ammonia can freeze clothing to skin, damage respiratory systems, affect vision, damage tissue in any moist area of the body, and cause death. Ammonia burns must be treated with water. In the event of contact with anhydrous ammonia, take the following steps:

- 1** Flush eyes with water immediately. Be sure to thaw the area with plenty of water prior to opening the victim's eye as the ammonia can freeze the eyelid to underlying tissue.
- 2** Flush burn areas with water for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- 3** Avoid using pressure to prevent further damage to soft tissue. Reduce pressure from a water supply by covering the affected area with a towel or blanket before flushing.
- 4** Do not use creams or salves as they can trap ammonia and make the injury worse. Thaw clothing before removing it.
- 5** Transport the victim for more medical assistance once they are decontaminated.
- 6** Tell the medical facility in advance to prepare for the arrival of an ammonia injury victim.





PROTECT YOURSELF

Ammonia and ammonia mixed with water will quickly cause latex to break down. First responders should use nitrile gloves if available. If not, use at least two pairs of latex gloves to protect yourself.



FIRST AID FAST FACTS

- 1 Move** the victim upwind to safety.
- 2 Remove** anhydrous ammonia from the person by flushing with water, remembering that clothing may be frozen to the skin.
- 3 Flush** any exposed tissue with water for a minimum of 15 minutes. Using plenty of fresh, clean water is an important factor in reducing the severity of tissue damage.
- 4 If oxygen** is required, get proper, qualified help immediately to administer oxygen.
- 5 Transport** the victim for medical assistance once they are decontaminated. Do not take their clothing or personal effects as they may still be contaminated with ammonia and should be handled with caution and if possible, contained. Make sure clothing is thawed before removing it.
- 6 Tell** the medical facility in advance to prepare for the arrival of an ammonia injury victim

For more information contact the FSSC at info@fssc.ca or visit www.FSSC.ca

