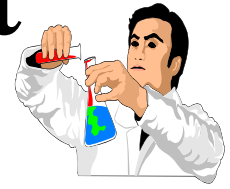




Water Treatment Newsletter




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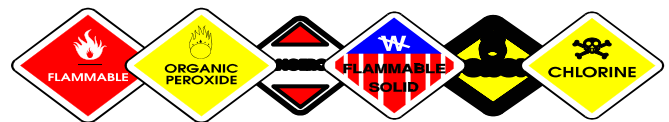
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Safe Chemical Handling Procedures Can Mean Increased Profits

Most water treatment chemical formulations are safe to handle if proper procedures are followed. A few treatment chemicals are quite hazardous, however, and *all* water treatment chemical products can cause injury and/or adverse health effects under certain exposure conditions. Every year, personal injury and illness caused by exposure to all types of chemicals causes individuals a great deal of pain and discomfort, and costs individuals and companies billions of dollars for medical treatment, increased insurance premiums, litigation and lost productivity.

- ✓ Make certain appropriate protective clothing and equipment for all chemicals in use is in place and is *worn* by all operators handling chemicals. This would include rubber gloves, boots, apron, goggles or glasses, face shield, respirator, etc.
- ✓ Assure that all drums, pails, totes, tanks or other containers used to store or transport chemicals are correctly and legibly labeled with product number or name.
- ✓ Have appropriate absorbent material and equipment available and accessible for clean up of chemical spills. 



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CHEMTEX
INTERNATIONAL CHEMTEX CORPORATION

8287 - 214th Street West
Lakeville, MN . 55044
(952) 469-4965

A substantial percentage of these lost dollars could be saved if proper chemical handling procedures were followed, appropriate safety equipment was used and a modicum of common sense was applied. Here's a checklist for facilities managers, plant engineers and safety directors to use to help assure that a chemical accident won't put a hole in their company's bottom line in 2002:

- ✓ Establish a plan calling for Safe Chemical Handling Training for all operators and management personnel involved with the water treatment program. All personnel involved should have this training before they are assigned to handle chemicals. Safe Chemical Handling training programs are available on videocassette; a qualified water treatment service representative should be able to provide a suitable program.
- ✓ Provide *current* Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for all chemicals in use. MSDSs should be readily accessible to all personnel who handle chemicals, and should be kept in a protective cover, booklet or cabinet. As part of their training, operators should be familiarized with spill containment, first aid and handling and storage information on each MSDS, along with the 24-hour emergency phone number.

- ✓ Make certain that eye wash stations and safety showers are installed in areas where corrosive chemicals are in use. This may include water treatment chemicals, many of which are classified corrosive. OSHA regulations require that eye washes and safety showers be flushed weekly and inspected annually.

By following these simple guidelines, facilities managers will provide a safer and more desirable workplace for their employees. At the same time, they will help assure they are in compliance with OSHA regulations, and will minimize the risk of a costly chemical exposure incident.