

Chlorine Safety in Water Treatment Plants

Exposure to chlorine gas can harm your health. Breathing in low levels of chlorine can lead to nose, throat, and eye irritation. Moderate exposure can result in difficulty breathing, coughing, and damage to your lungs. Any contact with your skin can cause irritation. Follow the guidelines below when dealing with chlorine.

Proper Storage

- Secure chlorine containers to keep them from falling, rolling, or dropping.
- Store chlorine in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area.
- Label container with date received, date opened, and disposal date.
- Never store containers near vents where fumes could spread to other areas.
- Never store chlorine with ammonia, combustible, or flammable materials.

Handling and Using Chlorine

- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) every time you handle chlorine.
- You need chemical-resistant rubber gloves, a full-face shield or non-ventilated safety goggles, long-sleeved shirt and pants, apron or coveralls, and closed-toed shoes or boots (no sneakers).

What to do if there is a spill or a leak

- Turn off chlorine cylinder valve, if possible.
- Leave the area! Chlorine fumes may be invisible and toxic.
- Never spray water on leaking containers.

First Aid

Inhalation: Move to fresh air. Call 911 immediately. Do not allow victim to move around.

Eyes: Flush eyes with large amounts of water. Call 911. Keep rinsing eyes while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive.

Skin: Remove contaminated clothes. Quickly wash any chlorine from skin with lukewarm water for 5 minutes. If irritation or pain persists, see a doctor.

Questions and Information

Texas Poison Control Network
1-800-222-1222

Texas Department of State Health
Services
Pesticide Exposure Surveillance
1-800-588-1248

epitox@dshs.texas.gov

dshs.texas.gov/epitox/pest.shtm

