**FORMALDEHYDE - CH$_2$O**

**OTHER NAMES AND SOURCES**
- formalin (formaldehyde in water)
- paraform (polymer of formaldehyde)
- methylene glycol (hydrated formaldehyde)
- methyl aldehyde

**USES**
- On campus: fixation of animal or plant tissue, RNA analyses, and as a fumigant in biological cabinets and animal rooms
- General uses: resins, plastics, textiles, disinfectant embalming agents, drug testing, photography, automotive industry

### HAZARDS
- Highly toxic to humans and wildlife if swallowed, inhaled, or comes in contact with skin.
- Carcinogenic: May cause cancer and genetic defects.
- Corrosive and irritant: Can cause severe skin burns and eye damage. Repeated exposures to low levels can cause sensitization, an allergic reaction due to prior contact.

### REDUCE RISKS
- May require medical monitoring. Complete a Hazard Inventory form. [https://hazard-inventory.ehs.iastate.edu](https://hazard-inventory.ehs.iastate.edu)
- Never work alone.
- Use only in a fume hood, well-ventilated area, or with a respirator.
- Wear goggles, gloves, lab coat, long pants and fully enclosed shoes.
- Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame/hot surfaces - this is a combustable liquid.
- Choose gloves appropriate to the hazard using...C$_3$D$_2$

### IN CASE OF EXPOSURE
**Signs and Symptoms:** watery eyes, burning sensation in eyes, nose, and throat; skin rashes, nausea, coughing, chest tightness, and allergic reaction.
- Ensure there is a eyewash and safety shower within 10 seconds of the work area.
- Skin exposure: Remove contaminated clothing, wash with soap and water. Seek immediate medical assistance.
- If swallowed: Do not induce vomiting; rinse mouth with water and seek immediate medical assistance.
- If inhaled: Move the person to fresh air and seek medical attention.

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