

# SAFE STORAGE OF FERTILIZERS CONTAINING AN



**Ammonium nitrate fertilizers are safe when handled in accordance with industry guidelines. They are not toxic to handle and cannot burn or explode spontaneously. If exposed to heat or fire, fertilizers can decompose and release toxic fumes.**

## DO'S

- Always keep record of what is in storage;
- Have storage instructions readily available;
- Train workers in safe handling and emergencies;
- First in - first out product movement;
- Good housekeeping practices;
- Free access to emergency equipment and escape-ways;
- For maintenance work: get manager's approval and follow correct procedures;
- Use only approved electrical equipment;
- Use safety warning symbols;
- Label fertilizer bags and bins correctly;
- Make safety inspections.

## DON'TS

- No entry for unauthorized persons;
- No smoking or use of open fire;
- No gas bottles, oil drums, gas and oil tanks, or fuel filling station in the vicinity of fertilizers;
- No hot wire lamps, use fluorescence type lamps avoiding contact with fertilizers;
- No heat source in contact with fertilizers;
- No hot work unless authorized and done under strict control;
- No contamination of fertilizers with combustible and organic materials, hay and straw, farm chemicals, oil and grease, acids and alkalis;
- No use of sawdust for drying wet floors (use inert materials instead).

# IN CASE OF A FIRE OR DECOMPOSITION OF FERTILIZERS...

## DO'S

- Call the Fire Brigade - mention materials involved.
- Evacuate personnel;
- Open doors, windows and roof vents for maximum ventilation;
- Find the fire source and try to control it if safe to do so;
- Fight the fire from upwind, avoid breathing fumes, use breathing apparatus where necessary;
- If possible, remove decomposing fertilizers and spray these with water;
- If not possible to remove, use VICTOR lances and large amounts of water to stop the decomposition;
- Avoid run-offs of molten fertilizers or polluted water from entering drains;
- Inform authorities if there is a risk of water pollution.

## DON'TS

Do not use chemical extinguishers, foam, steam or sand on decomposing fertilizers.

## FIRST AID

### DO'S

- Evacuate persons exposed to fumes to a safe area, make them lie down in the shade and keep warm;
- Call for medical assistance – inform doctor about type of gas and provide Safety Data Sheet;
- If breathing fails, give mouth-to-mouth respiration (do not press chest) or oxygen (by trained staff);
- Keep under medical supervision for at least 48 hours.

## AFTER THE FIRE OR DECOMPOSITION

### DO'S

- Make sure the fire or decomposition will not start again and keep watch if necessary for some time afterwards;
- Clean the area;
- Dispose of damaged fertilizers in a safe way (follow industry guidelines);
- Prevent damaged fertilizers from polluting the environment (no run-offs into waterways or groundwater).

**EMERGENCY CALL:**

For more information: