



Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **AMITROLE**

Synonyms: Aminotriazole; 3-Amino-1,2,4-Triazole

Chemical Name: 1H-1,2,4-Triazol-3-Amine

Date: June 1998

Revision: July 2007

CAS Number: 61-82-5

RTK Substance Number: 0083

DOT Number: UN 2588

Description and Use

Amitrole is an odorless, colorless to off-white crystalline (sand-like) solid or chip. It is used as a herbicide (weed killer) and as a photographic chemical. It has not been produced in the United States since 1978.

Reason for Citation

- ▶ **Amitrole** is on the Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, NTP, DEP, IARC, IRIS and EPA.
- ▶ This chemical is on the Special Health Hazard Substance List.

[SEE GLOSSARY ON PAGE 5.](#)

FIRST AID

Eye Contact

- ▶ Immediately flush with large amounts of cool water for at least 15 minutes, occasionally lifting upper and lower lids. Remove contact lenses, if worn, while rinsing.

Skin Contact

- ▶ Remove contaminated clothing. Wash contaminated skin with water.

Inhalation

- ▶ Remove the person from exposure.
- ▶ Transfer promptly to a medical facility.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300

NJDEP Hotline: 1-877-927-6337

National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE PAGE 6

Hazard Summary

Hazard Rating	NJDHSS	NFPA
HEALTH	3	-
FLAMMABILITY	0	-
REACTIVITY	0	-
CARCINOGEN POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE NOT COMBUSTIBLE		

Hazard Rating Key: 0=minimal; 1=slight; 2=moderate; 3=serious; 4=severe

- ▶ **Amitrole** can affect you when inhaled and may be absorbed through the skin.
- ▶ **Amitrole** should be handled as a CARCINOGEN--WITH EXTREME CAUTION.
- ▶ **Amitrole** may damage the developing fetus.
- ▶ Exposure may damage the liver and may affect thyroid gland function.
- ▶ **Amitrole** is not combustible but may be dissolved in flammable or combustible liquids.

Workplace Exposure Limits

NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit (REL) is **0.2 mg/m³** averaged over a 10-hour workshift.

ACGIH: The threshold limit value (TLV) is **0.2 mg/m³** averaged over an 8-hour workshift.

- ▶ **Amitrole** may be a CARCINOGEN in humans. There may be no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen, so all contact should be reduced to the lowest possible level.
- ▶ The above exposure limits are for air levels only. When skin contact also occurs, you may be overexposed, even though air levels are less than the limits listed above.

Determining Your Exposure

- ▶ Read the product manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and the label to determine product ingredients and important safety and health information about the product mixture.
- ▶ For each individual hazardous ingredient, read the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, available on the RTK Program website (www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb) or in your facility's RTK Central File or Hazard Communication Standard file.
- ▶ You have a right to this information under the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act, the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Act if you are a public worker in New Jersey, and under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) if you are a private worker.
- ▶ The New Jersey Right to Know Act requires most employers to label chemicals in the workplace and requires public employers to provide their employees with information concerning chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) requires private employers to provide similar information and training to their employees.

This Fact Sheet is a summary of available information regarding the health hazards that may result from exposure. Duration of exposure, concentration of the substance and other factors will affect your susceptibility to any of the potential effects described below.

Health Hazard Information

Acute Health Effects

The following acute (short-term) health effects may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to **Amitrole**:

- ▶ No acute (short-term) health effects are known at this time.

Chronic Health Effects

The following chronic (long-term) health effects can occur at some time after exposure to **Amitrole** and can last for months or years:

Cancer Hazard

- ▶ **Amitrole** may be a CARCINOGEN in humans since it has been shown to cause thyroid and liver cancer in animals.
- ▶ Many scientists believe there is no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen.

Reproductive Hazard

- ▶ **Amitrole** may damage the developing fetus.

Other Effects

- ▶ Exposure may damage the liver and may affect thyroid gland function.

Medical

Medical Testing

If symptoms develop or overexposure is suspected, the following are recommended:

- ▶ Liver function tests
- ▶ Evaluation of thyroid function

Any evaluation should include a careful history of past and present symptoms with an exam. Medical tests that look for damage already done are not a substitute for controlling exposure.

Request copies of your medical testing. You have a legal right to this information under the OSHA Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records Standard (29 CFR 1910.1020).

Mixed Exposures

- ▶ Because more than light alcohol consumption can cause liver damage, drinking alcohol may increase the liver damage caused by **Amitrole**.

Workplace Controls and Practices

Very toxic chemicals, or those that are reproductive hazards or sensitizers, require expert advice on control measures if a less toxic chemical cannot be substituted. Control measures include: (1) enclosing chemical processes for severely irritating and corrosive chemicals, (2) using local exhaust ventilation for chemicals that may be harmful with a single exposure, and (3) using general ventilation to control exposures to skin and eye irritants. For further information on workplace controls, consult the NIOSH document on Control Banding at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ctrlbanding/.

The following work practices are also recommended:

- ▶ Label process containers.
- ▶ Provide employees with hazard information and training.
- ▶ Monitor airborne chemical concentrations.
- ▶ Use engineering controls if concentrations exceed recommended exposure levels.
- ▶ Provide eye wash fountains and emergency showers.
- ▶ Wash or shower if skin comes in contact with a hazardous material.
- ▶ Always wash at the end of the workshift.
- ▶ Change into clean clothing if clothing becomes contaminated.
- ▶ Do not take contaminated clothing home.
- ▶ Get special training to wash contaminated clothing.
- ▶ Do not eat, smoke, or drink in areas where chemicals are being handled, processed or stored.
- ▶ Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics or using the toilet.

In addition, the following may be useful or required:

- ▶ Substitute a less toxic chemical for **Amitrole**. There are a large number of acceptable replacements available.
- ▶ Use a vacuum or a wet method to reduce dust during clean-up. DO NOT DRY SWEEP.
- ▶ When vacuuming, a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter should be used, not a standard shop vacuum.

Personal Protective Equipment

The OSHA Personal Protective Equipment Standard (29 CFR 1910.132) requires employers to determine the appropriate personal protective equipment for each hazard and to train employees on how and when to use protective equipment.

The following recommendations are only guidelines and may not apply to every situation.

Gloves and Clothing

- ▶ Avoid skin contact with **Amitrole**. Wear personal protective equipment made from material which can not be permeated and/or degraded by this substance. Safety equipment suppliers/manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove/clothing material for your operation.
- ▶ All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.

Eye Protection

- ▶ Wear dust-proof goggles and face shield when working with powders or dust, unless full facepiece respiratory protection is worn.
- ▶ Wear splash proof chemical goggles and face shield when working with liquids containing **Amitrole**, unless full facepiece respiratory protection is worn

Respiratory Protection

Improper use of respirators is dangerous. Such equipment should only be used if the employer has a written program that takes into account workplace conditions, requirements for worker training, respirator fit testing, and medical exams as described in the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

- ▶ For field applications check with your supervisor and your safety equipment supplier regarding the appropriate respiratory equipment.
- ▶ Where the potential exists for exposure over **0.2 mg/m³**, use a NIOSH approved supplied-air respirator with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode. For increased protection use in combination with an auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode.

Fire Hazards

If employees are expected to fight fires, they must be trained and equipped as stated in the OSHA Fire Brigades Standard (29 CFR 1910.156).

- ▶ **Amitrole** is not combustible but may be dissolved in flammable or combustible liquids.
- ▶ Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray, alcohol foam or a foaming agent.
- ▶ POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including *Nitrogen Oxides*.

Spills and Emergencies

If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. The OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (29 CFR 1910.120) may apply.

If **Amitrole** is spilled or leaked, take the following steps:

- ▶ Evacuate personnel and secure and control entrance to the area.
- ▶ Eliminate all ignition sources.
- ▶ Absorb liquids containing **Amitrole** in vermiculite, dry sand, earth, or a similar material and deposit in sealed containers.
- ▶ Collect powdered material with a HEPA filter vacuum, or use a wet method, and deposit in sealed containers.
- ▶ Ventilate area of spill or leak.
- ▶ It may be necessary to contain and dispose of **Amitrole** as a HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.

Handling and Storage

Prior to working with **Amitrole** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- ▶ **Amitrole** is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC and NITRIC); STRONG BASES (such as SODIUM HYDROXIDE and POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE); ACID ANHYDRIDES; and ACID CHLORIDES.
- ▶ **Amitrole** is corrosive to IRON, ALUMINUM and COPPER.
- ▶ Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area away from LIGHT.

Occupational Health Services Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Occupational Health Service, offers multiple services in occupational health. These services include providing informational resources, educational materials, public presentations, and industrial hygiene and medical investigations and evaluations.

For more information, please contact:

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
Right to Know Program
PO Box 368
Trenton, NJ 08625-0368
Phone: 609-984-2202
Fax: 609-984-7407
E-mail: rtk@doh.state.nj.us
Web address: <http://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb>

***The Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets
are not intended to be copied and sold
for commercial purposes.***

GLOSSARY

ACGIH is the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. They publish guidelines called Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for exposure to workplace chemicals.

Boiling point is the temperature at which a substance can change its physical state from a liquid to a gas.

A **carcinogen** is a substance that causes cancer.

The **CAS number** is unique, identifying number, assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service, to a specific chemical.

CFR is the Code of Federal Regulations, which are the regulations of the United States government.

A **combustible** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that will burn.

A **corrosive** substance is a gas, liquid or solid that causes destruction of human skin or severe corrosion of containers.

DEP is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

DOT is the Department of Transportation, the federal agency that regulates the transportation of chemicals.

EPA is the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency responsible for regulating environmental hazards.

ERG is the Emergency Response Guidebook. It is a guide for emergency responders for transportation emergencies involving hazardous substances.

A **fetus** is an unborn human or animal.

A **flammable** substance is a solid, liquid, vapor or gas that will ignite easily and burn rapidly.

The **flash point** is the temperature at which a liquid or solid gives off vapor that can form a flammable mixture with air.

IARC is the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a scientific group.

Ionization Potential is the amount of energy needed to remove an electron from an atom or molecule. It is measured in electron volts.

IRIS is the Integrated Risk Information System database maintained by federal EPA. The database contains information on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals in the environment.

LEL or **Lower Explosive Limit** is the lowest concentration of a combustible substance (gas or vapor) in the air capable of continuing an explosion.

mg/m³ means milligrams of a chemical in a cubic meter of air. It is a measure of concentration (weight/volume).

A **mutagen** is a substance that causes mutations. A **mutation** is a change in the genetic material in a body cell. Mutations can lead to birth defects, miscarriages, or cancer.

NFPA is the National Fire Protection Association. It classifies substances according to their fire and explosion hazard.

NIOSH is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It tests equipment, evaluates and approves respirators, conducts studies of workplace hazards, and proposes standards to OSHA.

NTP is the National Toxicology Program which tests chemicals and reviews evidence for cancer.

OSHA is the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards.

PEOSHA is the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards in public workplaces.

Permeated is the movement of chemicals through protective materials.

PIH is a DOT designation for chemicals which are Poison Inhalation Hazards.

ppm means parts of a substance per million parts of air. It is a measure of concentration by volume in air.

A **reactive** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that releases energy under certain conditions.

STEL is a Short Term Exposure Limit which is usually a 15-minute exposure that should not be exceeded at any time during a work day.

A **teratogen** is a substance that causes birth defects by damaging the fetus.

UEL or **Upper Explosive Limit** is the highest concentration in air above which there is too much fuel (gas or vapor) to begin a reaction or explosion.

Vapor Density is the ratio of the weight of a given volume of one gas to the weight of another (usually *Hydrogen*), at the same temperature and pressure.

The **vapor pressure** is a measure of how readily a liquid or a solid mixes with air at its surface. A higher vapor pressure indicates a higher concentration of the substance in air and therefore increases the likelihood of breathing it in.



Common Name: **AMITROLE**

Synonyms: Aminotriazole; 3-Amino-1,2,4-Triazole

CAS No: 61-82-5

Molecular Formula: C₂H₄N₄

RTK Substance No: 0083

Description: An odorless, colorless to off-white crystalline solid or chip

HAZARD DATA

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
<p>3 - Health</p> <p>0 - Fire</p> <p>0 - Reactivity</p> <p>DOT ID #: UN 2588</p> <p>ERG Guide #: 151</p> <p>Hazard Class: 6.1 (Poison)</p>	<p>Not combustible but may be dissolved in flammable or combustible liquids.</p> <p>Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray, alcohol foam or a foaming agent.</p> <p>POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including <i>Nitrogen Oxides</i>.</p>	<p>Amitrole is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC and NITRIC); STRONG BASES (such as SODIUM HYDROXIDE and POTASSIUM HYDROXIDES); ACID ANHYDRIDES and ACID CHLORIDES.</p> <p>Corrosive to IRON, COPPER and ALUMINUM.</p> <p>Decomposes in LIGHT.</p>

SPILL/LEAKS

Isolation Distance: No Information

- May be hazardous to the environment, especially to plants.
- Severe marine pollutant.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Odor Threshold:	Odorless
Flash Point:	Not Combustible
LEL:	N/A
UEL:	N/A
Vapor Pressure:	Less than 0.000008 mm Hg at 68°F (20°C)
Water Solubility:	Soluble
Melting Point:	318°F (159°C)
Specific Gravity:	1.14

EXPOSURE LIMITS

OSHA:	N/A
NIOSH	0.2 mg/m ³ , 10-hr TWA
ACGIH:	0.2 mg/m ³ , 8-hr TWA
IDLH LEVEL:	No Information

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Gloves:	No Information
Coverall:	No Information
Boot:	No Information
Respirator:	>0.2 mg/m ³ - Supplied air

HEALTH EFFECTS

Eyes:	No Information
Skin:	No Information
Acute:	No Information
Chronic:	<p>Carcinogen (thyroid and liver) in animals.</p> <p>May damage the developing fetus.</p> <p>May damage the liver and affect thyroid gland function.</p>

FIRST AID AND DECONTAMINATION

- Remove the person from exposure.
- Flush eyes with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes.
- Remove contact lenses if worn.
- Remove contaminated clothing. Wash contaminated skin with water.
- Transfer to a medical facility.