



Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **BRUCINE**

Synonyms: 10,11-Dimethoxystrychnine; (-)Brucine Dihydrate

Chemical Name: Strychnidin-10-one, 2,3-Dimethoxy-

Date: November 2022

Revision: June 2023

CAS Number: 357-57-3

RTK Number: 0270

DOT Number: UN 1570

DOT Hazard: 6.1 (poison)

Description and Use

Brucine is a white, odorless, crystalline (sand-like) solid with a very bitter taste. It is used in the manufacture of other chemicals, in perfumes, as a medication for animals, and as a poison for rodents. **Brucine** is closely related to *Strychnine*.

Reason for Citation

Brucine is on the *Right to Know Hazardous Substance List* because it is cited by DOT and EPA.

[SEE GLOSSARY ON PAGE 5](#)

FIRST AID

Eye Contact

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

Skin Contact

- ▶ Remove contaminated clothing. Wash contaminated skin with soap and water.
- ▶ Shampoo hair immediately if contaminated.

Inhalation

- ▶ Remove the person from exposure.
- ▶ Begin rescue breathing (using universal precautions) if breathing has stopped and CPR if heart action has stopped.
- ▶ 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 LAST PAGE

Hazard Summary

Hazard Rating	NJDOH	NFPA
HEALTH	4	-
FLAMMABILITY	1	-
REACTIVITY	1	-
COMBUSTIBLE POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE		

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

- ▶ **Brucine** can affect you when breathed in and may be absorbed through the skin.
- ▶ Exposure to **Brucine** can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, and cause headache, nausea, vomiting, ringing in the ear, disturbed vision, restlessness, excitement, twitching, and convulsions.
- ▶ Severe poisoning can cause paralysis and death.

Workplace Exposure Limits

No occupational exposure limits have been established for **Brucine**. This does not mean that this substance is not harmful. Safe work practices should always be followed.

- ▶ It should be recognized that **Brucine** may be absorbed through your skin, thereby increasing your exposure.

Determining Exposure

- ▶ Read the product Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and label to determine ingredients and important safety and health information.
- ▶ Read the New Jersey Department of Health Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets on the chemicals in the product at <http://nj.gov/health/workplacehealthandsafety/right-to-know/> or in your facility's Right to Know Central File or Hazard Communication Standard file.
- ▶ Public workers in New Jersey have a right to information about the chemicals with which they work under the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act and the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act (PEOSHA). Private workers have the same right under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).
- ▶ The New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act and the PEOSH Hazard Communication Standard require most employers to label chemicals in the workplace and require public employers to provide employees with information and training on chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard requires private employers to provide similar information and training to employees.

Health Hazard Information

Below is a summary of available information regarding health hazards that may result from exposure. Duration of exposure, concentration of the substance and other factors affect individual susceptibility.

Acute Health Effects

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

- ▶ Exposure to **Brucine** can irritate the eyes, nose, and throat and cause headache, nausea, vomiting, ringing in the ear, disturbed vision, restlessness, excitement, twitching, and convulsions.
- ▶ Severe poisoning can cause paralysis and death.

Other Health Effects

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

Cancer Hazard

- ▶ According to the information presently available to the New Jersey Department of Health, **Brucine** has not been tested for its ability to cause cancer in animals.

Reproductive Hazard

- ▶ According to the information presently available to the New Jersey Department of Health, **Brucine** has not been tested for its ability to affect reproduction.

Medical

Medical evaluations should include a detailed history of past and present symptoms and a physical exam. Medical tests that look for damage already done are not a substitute for controlling exposure.

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

Medical Testing

There is no special test for this chemical. However, if illness occurs or overexposure is suspected, medical attention is recommended.

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 practices are recommended:

- ▶ Label process containers.
- ▶ Train and inform employees about hazards.
- ▶ Monitor airborne chemical concentrations.
- ▶ Automatically transfer combustible and flammable liquids from storage to process containers.
- ▶ Use engineering controls at elevated levels of exposure.
- ▶ Provide eye wash fountains and emergency showers.
- ▶ Wash skin after contact with a hazardous material.
- ▶ Wash at the end of the work shift.
- ▶ Do not wear clothing once it becomes contaminated.
- ▶ Do not take contaminated clothing home.
- ▶ Special training is required 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:

- ▶ Special controls and practices for occupational exposure to pesticides are required by the Worker Protection Standard (40 CFR Part 170).
- ▶ For more information, contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Pesticide Control Program (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/index.htm>).

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. All personal protective equipment (including suits, gloves, footwear and headgear) should be clean, available each day and put on before work.

Consult safety equipment suppliers and manufacturers for specific recommendations. The following recommendations are only guidelines and may not apply to every situation:

Gloves and Clothing

- ▶ Avoid skin contact.
- ▶ Safety equipment manufacturers recommend Butyl or Nitrile gloves, and Tychem® QC or Tychem® SL as protective clothing.

Eye Protection

- ▶ Wear a face shield along with impact-resistant goggles when working with corrosive, highly irritating or toxic substances.
- ▶ When *airborne particles* or *dust* are present wear indirect-vent, impact-resistant goggles.

Respiratory Protection

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

Only use NIOSH-approved respirators.

- ▶ For outdoor use, check with your supervisor and your safety equipment supplier regarding the appropriate respiratory equipment.
- ▶ Leave the area immediately if (1) while wearing a filter or cartridge respirator you can smell, taste, or otherwise detect the chemical substance, (2) while wearing particulate filters abnormal resistance to breathing is experienced, or (3) eye irritation occurs while wearing a full facepiece respirator.
- ▶ Consider all potential exposure sources. You may need a combination of filters, pre-filters or cartridges to protect against different forms of a chemical (such as vapor and mist) or against a mixture of chemicals.
- ▶ Where the potential for exposure exists, use a NIOSH approved self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode equipped with an emergency escape air cylinder.

Fire Hazards

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

- ▶ **Brucine** is COMBUSTIBLE.
- ▶ **Brucine** may burn but does not readily ignite.
- ▶ Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray or foam extinguishers.
- ▶ POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including *Nitrogen Oxides*.

Spills and Emergencies

Employees who are required to clean-up spills or leaks must be properly trained and equipped. The OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (29 CFR 1910.120) may apply.

It may be necessary to contain and dispose of this substance as HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.

In case of accidental release:

- ▶ Evacuate personnel.
- ▶ Secure and control entrance to the area.
- ▶ If it is safe to do so, remove potential ignition sources.
- ▶ Collect *powdered* material in the most convenient and safe manner and deposit in sealed containers.
- ▶ Do not allow this substance to enter waterways, including sewers, as it is very toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects.
- ▶ Ventilate area after clean-up is complete.

Handling and Storage

Prior to working with this substance, employees should be trained on proper handling and storage.

- ▶ **Brucine** is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE).
- ▶ Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area.
- ▶ Storage should be under lock and key and secure from access by unauthorized persons.

Occupational Health Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health's Occupational Health Service offers information, resources, educational materials, public presentations, and industrial hygiene and medical investigations and evaluations, among other services.

For more information, please contact:

New Jersey Department of Health – Right to Know
PO Box 368
Trenton, NJ 08625-0368

Phone: 609-984-2202

Fax: 609-984-7407

E-mail: rtk@doh.nj.gov

Web address:

<http://nj.gov/health/workplacehealthandsafety/right-to-know/>

***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. It determines Threshold Limit Values (TLVs).

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

The **CAS number** is the 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 can weaken or destroy human skin or chemical containers.

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, a resource for responding to chemical emergencies during transportation.

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

IARC is the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

IDLH is the level of substance which is Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health.

IRIS is the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System.

LEL or **Lower Explosive Limit**, is the lowest concentration of a substance in 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 changes the genetic material of cells, and can lead to birth defects, miscarriages, or cancer.

NJDEP is the New Jersey Department of Environmental protection.

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

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

NTP is the National Toxicology Program, which tests chemicals and reviews evidence to determine carcinogenicity.

OSHA is the 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.

PEL is the permissible exposure. It is established by OSHA.

PIH stands for Poison Inhalation Hazard. This classification is established by the DOT.

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

Protective Action Criteria (PAC) are values established by the Department of Energy for chemical emergencies.

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

REL is the recommended exposure limit by NIOSH.

STEL is a Short-Term Exposure Limit, which should never be exceeded during the workday.

TLV is the Threshold Limit Value, an exposure limit for airborne concentrations.

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

UEL or **Upper Explosive Limit** is the concentration of a substance in air above which there is too much fuel to continue an explosion.

Common Name: BRUCINE

Synonyms: 10,11-Dimethoxystrychnine; (-)Brucine Dihydrate
 CAS Number: 357-57-3
 Molecular Formula: C₂₃H₂₆N₂O₄
 RTK Number: 0270
 Description: White, odorless, crystalline (sand-like) solid with a very bitter taste

HAZARD DATA

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
Health: 4 Fire: 1 Reactivity: 1 DOT #: UN 1570 ERG #: 152 DOT: 6.1 Hazard: (poison)	Use dry chemical, CO ₂ , water spray or foam extinguishers. POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including <i>Nitrogen Oxides</i> .	Brucine is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE).

SPILLS/LEAKS

Isolation Distances:
Liquid Spill: 50 meters (150 feet)
Solid Spill: 25 meters (75 feet)
Fire: 800 meters (1/2 mile)

Evacuate personnel.
 Secure and control entrance to the area.
 If it is safe to do so, remove potential ignition sources.
 Collect *powdered* material in the most convenient and safe manner and deposit in sealed containers.
 Do not allow this substance to enter waterways, including sewers, as it is very toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects.
 Ventilate area after clean-up is complete.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Melting Point: 178 °C (352 °F)
Molecular Weight: 394.51
Boiling Point: 470 °C (878 °F)
Water Solubility: Slightly soluble
Specific Gravity: >1 at 20 °C (68 ° F)

EXPOSURE LIMITS

There are no occupational exposure limits to this substance.

PAC: PAC-1 = 0.29 mg/m³
 PAC-2 = 3.2 mg/m³
 PAC-3 = 36 mg/m³

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Gloves: Butyl or Nitrile
Coverall: Tychem® QC or Tychem® SL
Respirator: Self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode

ACUTE HEALTH EFFECTS

Eyes: Irritation
Skin: Irritation
Inhalation: Irritation, headache, nausea, vomiting, ringing in the ear, disturbed vision, restlessness, excitement, twitching, convulsions, paralysis, death

FIRST AID AND DECONTAMINATION

Immediately flush with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes.
 Remove contaminated clothing. Wash contaminated skin with soap and water.
 Shampoo hair immediately if contaminated.
 Remove the person from exposure.
 Begin rescue breathing (using universal precautions) if breathing has stopped and CPR if heart action has stopped.
 Transfer promptly to a medical facility.