Common Name: METHYL PARATHION

CAS Number: 298-00-0
DOT Number: NA 2783 (solid)
NA 3018 (liquid)

HAZARD SUMMARY
* Methyl Parathion can affect you when breathed in and by passing through your skin.
* Exposure to Methyl Parathion can cause rapid, fatal, organophosphate poisoning with headache, dizziness, blurred vision, tightness in the chest, sweating, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, muscle twitching, convulsions, coma and death.
* Repeated exposure may cause personality changes of depression, anxiety or irritability.

IDENTIFICATION
Methyl Parathion is a white to yellow-brown, crystalline (sugar or sand-like) solid with a garlic odor. It is used as a pesticide in a liquid solution with Xylene or as a wettable powder mixture.

REASON FOR CITATION
* Methyl Parathion is on the Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, HHAG and EPA.
* Definitions are provided on page 5.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE BEING EXPOSED
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 and training concerning chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, 1910.1200, requires private employers to provide similar training and information to their employees.

* Exposure to hazardous substances should be routinely evaluated. This may include collecting personal and area air samples. You can obtain copies of sampling results from your employer. You have a legal right to this information under OSHA 1910.1020.
* If you think you are experiencing any work-related health problems, see a doctor trained to recognize occupational diseases. Take this Fact Sheet with you.

WORKPLACE EXPOSURE LIMITS
NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit is 0.2 mg/m³ averaged over a 10-hour workshift.
ACGIH: The recommended airborne exposure limit is 0.2 mg/m³ averaged over an 8-hour workshift.
* 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.

WAYS OF REDUCING EXPOSURE
* Where possible, enclose operations and use local exhaust ventilation at the site of chemical release. If local exhaust ventilation or enclosure is not used, respirators should be worn.
* Wear protective work clothing.
* Wash thoroughly immediately after exposure to Methyl Parathion and at the end of the workshift.
* Post hazard and warning information in the work area. In addition, as part of an ongoing education and training effort, communicate all information on the health and safety hazards of Methyl Parathion to potentially exposed workers.
This Fact Sheet is a summary source of information of all potential and most severe 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.

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HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

Acute Health Effects
The following acute (short-term) health effects may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to **Methyl Parathion**:

* Exposure to **Methyl Parathion** can cause rapid, fatal, *organophosphate poisoning* with headache, dizziness, blurred vision, tightness in the chest, sweating, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, muscle twitching, convulsions, coma and death.

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

Cancer Hazard
* There is no evidence that **Methyl Parathion** causes cancer in animals. This is based on test results presently available to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services from published studies.

Reproductive Hazard
* **Methyl Parathion** may damage the developing fetus.

Other Long-Term Effects
* Repeated exposure may cause personality changes of depression, anxiety or irritability.

MEDICAL

Medical Testing
Before employment and at regular times after that, the following are recommended:

* Plasma and red blood cell cholinesterase levels (tests for the enzyme poisoned by this chemical). If exposure stops, plasma levels return to normal in 1-2 weeks while red blood cell levels may be reduced for 1-3 months.
* When cholinesterase enzyme levels are reduced by 25% or more below pre-employment levels, risk of poisoning is increased, even if results are in lower ranges of "normal." Reassignment to work not involving *organophosphates* or *carbamates* pesticides is recommended until enzyme levels recover.

If symptoms develop or overexposure occurs, repeat the preceding tests as soon as possible and get an exam of the nervous system.

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 OSHA 1910.1020.

Mixed Exposures
* Persons exposed to other chemicals which affect body cholinesterase (*organophosphates, carbamates*) may be at increased risk.

WORKPLACE CONTROLS AND PRACTICES

Unless a less toxic chemical can be substituted for a hazardous substance, **ENGINEERING CONTROLS** are the most effective way of reducing exposure. The best protection is to enclose operations and/or provide local exhaust ventilation at the site of chemical release. Isolating operations can also reduce exposure. Using respirators or protective equipment is less effective than the controls mentioned above, but is sometimes necessary.

In evaluating the controls present in your workplace, consider: (1) how hazardous the substance is, (2) how much of the substance is released into the workplace and (3) whether harmful skin or eye contact could occur. Special controls should be in place for highly toxic chemicals or when significant skin, eye, or breathing exposures are possible.

In addition, the following control is recommended:

* Where possible, automatically transfer solid **Methyl Parathion** or pump liquid **Methyl Parathion** from drums or other storage containers to process containers.

Good **WORK PRACTICES** can help to reduce hazardous exposures. The following work practices are recommended:

* Workers whose clothing has been contaminated by **Methyl Parathion** should change into clean clothing promptly.
* Do not take contaminated work clothes home. Family members could be exposed.
* Contaminated work clothes should be laundered by individuals who have been informed of the hazards of exposure to **Methyl Parathion**.
* Eye wash fountains should be provided in the immediate work area for emergency use.
* If there is the possibility of skin exposure, emergency shower facilities should be provided.
* On skin contact with **Methyl Parathion**, immediately wash or shower to remove the chemical. At the end of the workshift, wash any areas of the body that may have contacted **Methyl Parathion**, whether or not known skin contact has occurred.
METHYL PARATHION

* Do not eat, smoke, or drink where Methyl Parathion is handled, processed, or stored, since the chemical can be swallowed. Wash hands carefully before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the toilet.
* For solid Methyl Parathion use a vacuum or a wet method to reduce dust during clean-up. DO NOT DRY SWEEP.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

WORKPLACE CONTROLS ARE BETTER THAN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. However, for some jobs (such as outside work, confined space entry, jobs done only once in a while, or jobs done while workplace controls are being installed), personal protective equipment may be appropriate.

OSHA 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.

Clothing
* Avoid skin contact with Methyl Parathion. Wear protective gloves and clothing. 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.
* Contaminated clothing should be washed in temperatures higher than 85°F (29.4°C).

Eye Protection
* For solid Methyl Parathion wear impact resistant eye protection with side shields or goggles.
* Wear indirect-vent, impact and splash resistant goggles when working with liquid solutions of Methyl Parathion.
* Wear a face shield along with goggles when working with corrosive, highly irritating or toxic substances.

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 OSHA 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 MSHA/NIOSH approved full facepiece respirator with an organic vapor cartridge and particulate prefilters. Increased protection is obtained from full facepiece powered-air purifying respirators.
* If while wearing a filter or cartridge respirator you can smell, taste, or otherwise detect Methyl Parathion, or if while wearing particulate filters abnormal resistance to breathing is experienced, or eye irritation occurs while wearing a full facepiece respirator, leave the area immediately. Check to make sure the respirator-to-face seal is still good. If it is, replace the filter or cartridge. If the seal is no longer good, you may need a new respirator.
* Be sure to consider all potential exposures in your workplace. You may need a combination of filters, prefilters 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 high exposure exists, use a MSHA/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.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

* Prior to working with Methyl Parathion you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.
* Methyl Parathion is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE) and STRONG BASES (such as SODIUM HYDROXIDE and POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE).
* Methyl Parathion must be stored to avoid contact with HEAT, MAGNESIUM and ENDRIN since violent reactions occur.
* Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area.
* Sources of ignition, such as smoking and open flames, are prohibited where Methyl Parathion is used, handled, or stored in a manner that could create a potential fire or explosion hazard.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: If I have acute health effects, will I later get chronic health effects?
A: Not always. Most chronic (long-term) effects result from repeated exposures to a chemical.

Q: Can I get long-term effects without ever having short-term effects?
A: Yes, because long-term effects can occur from repeated exposures to a chemical at levels not high enough to make you immediately sick.
Q: What are my chances of getting sick when I have been exposed to chemicals?
A: The likelihood of becoming sick from chemicals is increased as the amount of exposure increases. This is determined by the length of time and the amount of material to which someone is exposed.

Q: When are higher exposures more likely?
A: Conditions which increase risk of exposure include dust releasing operations (grinding, mixing, blasting, dumping, etc.), other physical and mechanical processes (heating, pouring, spraying, spills and evaporation from large surface areas such as open containers), and "confined space" exposures (working inside vats, reactors, boilers, small rooms, etc.).

Q: Is the risk of getting sick higher for workers than for community residents?
A: Yes. Exposures in the community, except possibly in cases of fires or spills, are usually much lower than those found in the workplace. However, people in the community may be exposed to contaminated water as well as to chemicals in the air over long periods. This may be a problem for children or people who are already ill.

Q: Can men as well as women be affected by chemicals that cause reproductive system damage?
A: Yes. Some chemicals reduce potency or fertility in both men and women. Some damage sperm and eggs, possibly leading to birth defects.

Q: Who is at the greatest risk from reproductive hazards?
A: Pregnant women are at greatest risk from chemicals that harm the developing fetus. However, chemicals may affect the ability to have children, so both men and women of childbearing age are at high risk.
DEFINITIONS

ACGIH is the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. It recommends upper limits (called TLVs) for exposure to workplace chemicals.

A carcinogen is a substance that causes cancer.

The CAS number is assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service to identify a specific chemical.

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

A corrosive substance is a gas, liquid or solid that causes irreversible damage to human tissue or 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.

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.

HHAG is the Human Health Assessment Group of the federal EPA.

IARC is the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a scientific group that classifies chemicals according to their cancer-causing potential.

A miscible substance is a liquid or gas that will evenly dissolve in another.

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

MSHA is the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the federal agency that regulates mining. It also evaluates and approves respirators.

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.

NAERG is the North American Emergency Response Guidebook. It was jointly developed by Transport Canada, the United States Department of Transportation and the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation of Mexico. It is a guide for first responders to quickly identify the specific or generic hazards of material involved in a transportation incident, and to protect themselves and the general public during the initial response phase of the incident.

NCI is the National Cancer Institute, a federal agency that determines the cancer-causing potential of chemicals.

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 Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards.

PEOSHA is the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, a state law which sets PELs for New Jersey public employees.

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.

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

TLV is the Threshold Limit Value, the workplace exposure limit recommended by ACGIH.

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: METHYL PARATHION
DOT Number: NA 2783 (solid)
            NA 3018 (liquid)
NAERG Code: 152
CAS Number: 298-00-0

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

FIRE HAZARDS

* Methyl Parathion is a COMBUSTIBLE SOLID. However, Methyl Parathion is often available and used in a FLAMMABLE LIQUID solution.
* Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray, or foam extinguishers.
* POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including Nitrogen Oxides, Sulfur Oxides and Phosphorus Oxide fumes.
* CONTAINERS MAY EXPLODE IN FIRE.
* Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.
* If employees are expected to fight fires, they must be trained and equipped as stated in OSHA 1910.156.

SPILLS AND EMERGENCIES

If liquid solutions of Methyl Parathion are spilled or leaked or solid Methyl Parathion is spilled, take the following steps:

* Evacuate persons not wearing protective equipment from area of spill or leak until clean-up is complete.
* Remove all ignition sources.
* Absorb liquids in vermiculite, dry sand, earth, or a similar material and deposit in sealed containers.
* Collect powdered material in the most convenient and safe manner and deposit in sealed containers.
* Ventilate and wash area after clean-up is complete.
* It may be necessary to contain and dispose of Methyl Parathion as a HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.
* If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. OSHA 1910.120(q) may be applicable.

FOR LARGE SPILLS AND FIRES immediately call your fire department. You can request emergency information from the following:

CHEMTREC: (800) 424-9300
NJDEP HOTLINE: (609) 292-7172

HANDLING AND STORAGE  (See page 3)

FIRST AID

In NJ, for POISON INFORMATION call 1-800-764-7661

Eye Contact
* Immediately flush with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes, occasionally lifting upper and lower lids. Seek medical attention immediately.

Skin Contact
* Quickly remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash area with large amounts of soap and water. Seek medical attention immediately.

Breathing
* 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.

PHYSICAL DATA

Vapor Pressure: 1.0 x 10⁻⁵ mm Hg at 68°F (20°C)
Flash Point: 115°F (46°C)
Water Solubility: Slightly soluble

OTHER COMMONLY USED NAMES

Chemical Name:
Phosphorothioic Acid, O,O-Dimethyl O-(4-Nitrophenyl) Ester
Other Names:
Wofatox; Metacid; Nitrox

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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
Right to Know Program
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