Right to Know

Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **SODIUM HYDROSULFIDE**

Synonyms: Sodium Bisulfide; Sodium Hydrogen Sulfide; Sodium Mercaptan

Chemical Name: Sodium Sulfide (Na(SH))

Date: August 1999 Revision: August 2009

CAS Number: 16721-80-5

RTK Substance Number: 1705

DOT Number: UN 2318 (less than 25% water of crystallization)

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE LAST PAGE

Description and Use

Sodium Hydrosulfide is a colorless to lemon-colored, crystalline (sand-like) solid with a rotten egg odor. It is used to make heavy water for nuclear reactors, as a chemical intermediate and pulping agent in making paper, and in making dyes and other chemicals.

Hazard Summary

Hazard Rating	NJDOH	NFPA
HEALTH	3	-
FLAMMABILITY	*2	-
REACTIVITY	1	-
CORROSIVE * SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTIBLE POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE		

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

- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** can affect you when inhaled and may be absorbed through the skin.
- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** is a CORROSIVE CHEMICAL and contact can severely irritate and burn the skin and eyes leading to eye damage.
- Exposure can irritate the nose and throat.
- Inhaling **Sodium Hydrosulfide** can irritate the lungs. Higher exposures may cause a build-up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency.
- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** can cause headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, lightheadedness, and passing out.
- **Sodium Hydrosulfide**, when not in *solution*, may be SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTIBLE when exposed to AIR.
- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** forms *Hydrogen Sulfide gas*, especially when heated or involved in a fire. *Consult the Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet on HYDROGEN SULFIDE*.

Reasons for Citation

- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** is on the Right to Know Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by DOT.
- 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 water for at least 30 minutes, lifting upper and lower lids. Remove contact lenses, if worn, while flushing. Seek medical attention immediately.

Skin Contact

- Quickly remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water. Seek medical attention immediately.

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.
- Medical observation is recommended for 24 to 48 hours after overexposure, as pulmonary edema may be delayed.

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

Workplace Exposure Limits

The following exposure limits are for *Hydrogen Sulfide*:

OSHA: The legal airborne permissible exposure limit (PEL) is **20 ppm**, not to be exceeded at any time and **50 ppm** as a 10-minute peak.

NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit (REL) is **10 ppm**, which should not be exceeded during any 10-minute work period.

ACGIH: The threshold limit value (TLV) is **1 ppm** averaged over an 8-hour workshift and **5 ppm** as a STEL (short-term exposure limit).

- 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 Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, available on the RTK 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) and the PEOSH Hazard Communication Standard (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7) require 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 **Sodium Hydrosulfide**:

- Contact can severely irritate and burn the skin and eyes leading to eye damage.
- Exposure can irritate the nose and throat.
- Inhaling **Sodium Hydrosulfide** can irritate the lungs causing coughing and/or shortness of breath. Higher exposures may cause a build-up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency, with severe shortness of breath.
- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** can cause headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, muscle cramps, disorientation, lightheadedness, and passing out. Higher levels can cause coma, seizures and death.

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

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

Other Effects
- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** can irritate the lungs. Repeated exposure may cause bronchitis to develop with coughing, phlegm, and/or shortness of breath.

Medical

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

- Lung function tests
- Consider chest x-ray after acute overexposure

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
- Smoking can cause heart disease, lung cancer, emphysema, and other respiratory problems. It may worsen respiratory conditions caused by chemical exposure. Even if you have smoked for a long time, stopping now will reduce your risk of developing health problems.

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:

- Before entering a confined space where **Sodium Hydrosulfide** may be present, check to make sure that an explosive concentration of *Hydrogen Sulfide gas* does not exist.
- For *solid* **Sodium Hydrosulfide** use a vacuum to reduce dust during clean-up. DO NOT DRY SWEEP.

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 **Sodium Hydrosulfide**. Wear personal protective equipment made from material which can not be permeated or degraded by this substance. Safety equipment suppliers and manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove and clothing material for your operation.
- Safety equipment manufacturers recommend Neoprene for gloves, and Tychem® Responder®, or the equivalent, as a protective material for clothing.
- All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.

Eye Protection

- For solid **Sodium Hydrosulfide** wear eye protection with side shields or goggles.
- Wear indirect-vent, impact and splash resistant goggles when working with liquids.
- Wear a face shield along with goggles when working with corrosive, highly irritating or toxic substances.

Respiratory Protection

Improper use of respirators is dangerous. Respirators should only be used if the employer has implemented 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).

- Where the potential exists for exposure over **1 ppm** (as *Hydrogen Sulfide*), use a NIOSH approved full facepiece powered-air purifying respirator which is specifically approved for *Hydrogen Sulfide*.
- Leave the area immediately if (1) while wearing a filter or cartridge respirator you can smell, taste, or otherwise detect **Sodium Hydrosulfide**, (2) while wearing particulate filters abnormal resistance to breathing is experienced, or (3) eye irritation occurs while wearing a full facepiece respirator. 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.
- Consider all potential sources of exposure 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 exists for exposure over **5 ppm** (as *Hydrogen Sulfide*), 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 or an emergency escape air cylinder.
- Exposure to **100 ppm** (as *Hydrogen Sulfide*) is immediately dangerous to life and health. If the possibility of exposure above **100 ppm** 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

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).

- **Sodium Hydrosulfide**, when not solution, may be SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTIBLE.
- FLAMMABLE *Hydrogen Sulfide gas* may form with heating.
- Use dry chemical, CO_2, water spray or foam as extinguishing agents. DO NOT apply directly on **Sodium Hydrosulfide** itself as splattering may occur.
- POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including *Sulfur Oxides* and *Hydrogen Sulfide*.
- Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.
- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** may form an ignitable vapor/air mixture in closed tanks or containers.

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 solid **Sodium Hydrosulfide** is spilled or leaked, take the following steps:

- Evacuate personnel and secure and control entrance to the area.
- Eliminate all ignition sources.
- Collect powdered material in the most convenient and safe manner and place into sealed containers for disposal.
- For **Sodium Hydrosulfide** in *solution*, cover with dry sand or earth and place into sealed containers for disposal.
- Ventilate area of spill or leak.
- Keep **Sodium Hydrosulfide** out of confined spaces, such as sewers, because of the possibility of an explosion due to *Hydrogen Sulfide* gas *formation*.
- DO NOT wash into sewer.
- It may be necessary to contain and dispose of **Sodium Hydrosulfide** 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 **Sodium Hydrosulfide** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** reacts with STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC and NITRIC); MOIST AIR and MOISTURE to release flammable and toxic *Hydrogen Sulfide gas*.
- **Sodium Hydrosulfide** is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE) and METALS (such as ZINC, ALUMINUM and COPPER, and their ALLOYS).
- Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area away from COMBUSTIBLES.
- Sources of ignition, such as smoking and open flames, are prohibited where **Sodium Hydrosulfide** is used, handled, or stored in a manner that could create a potential fire or explosion hazard.
- Use explosion-proof electrical equipment and fittings wherever *solid* **Sodium Hydrosulfide** is used, handled, manufactured, or stored.

Occupational Health Information Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health 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
Right to Know
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

GLOSSARY

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

Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs) are established by the EPA. They describe the risk to humans resulting from once-in-a lifetime, or rare, exposure to airborne 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.

The **critical temperature** is the temperature above which a gas cannot be liquefied, regardless of the pressure applied.

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.

Emergency Response Planning Guideline (ERPG) values provide estimates of concentration ranges where one reasonably might anticipate observing adverse effects.

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 on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals, maintained by federal EPA.

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/m^3 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.

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 and are based on AEGLs and ERPGs. They are used for emergency planning of chemical release events.

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 *Air*), at the same temperature and pressure.

The **vapor pressure** is a force exerted by the vapor in equilibrium with the solid or liquid phase of the same substance. The higher the vapor pressure the higher concentration of the substance in air.

Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Emergency Responders Quick Reference

Common Name: **SODIUM HYDROSULFIDE**

Synonyms: Sodium Bisulfide; Sodium Hydrogen Sulfide; Sodium Mercaptan; Sodium Sulfide
CAS No: 16721-80-5
Molecular Formula: NaHS
RTK Substance No: 1705
Description: Colorless to lemon-colored, crystalline solid with a rotten egg odor

HAZARD DATA

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
3 - Health ***2 - Fire** **1 - Reactivity** **DOT#:** UN 2318 (less than 25% water of crystallization) **ERG Guide #:** 135 **Hazard Class:** 4.2 (Spontaneously Combustible)	**Sodium Hydrosulfide**, when not solution, may be SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTIBLE. FLAMMABLE *Hydrogen Sulfide gas* may form with heating. Use dry chemical, CO_2, water spray or foam as extinguishing agents. DO NOT apply directly on **Sodium Hydrosulfide** itself as splattering may occur. POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including *Sulfur Oxides* and *Hydrogen Sulfide*. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool. **Sodium Hydrosulfide** may form an ignitable vapor/air mixture in closed tanks or containers.	**Sodium Hydrosulfide** reacts with STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC and NITRIC); MOIST AIR and MOISTURE to release flammable and toxic *Hydrogen Sulfide gas*. **Sodium Hydrosulfide** is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE) and METALS (such as ZINC, ALUMINUM and COPPER, and their ALLOYS).

SPILL/LEAKS

Isolation Distance:

Spill: 25 meters (75 feet)

Fire: 800 meters (1/2 mile)

Collect powdered material in the most convenient and safe manner and place into sealed containers for disposal.

For **Sodium Hydrosulfide** in *solution*, cover with dry sand or earth and place into sealed containers for disposal.

Keep **Sodium Hydrosulfide** out of confined spaces, such as sewers, because of the possibility of an explosion due to *Hydrogen Sulfide* gas *formation*.

DO NOT wash into sewer.

For water spills, add Sodium Carbonate (Na_2CO_3).

Sodium Hydrosulfide is very toxic to aquatic life.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Odor Threshold:	Rotten egg odor
Flash Point:	194°F (90°C) (Hydrate form)
LEL:	4.3% (as *Hydrogen Sulfide*)
UEL:	46% (as *Hydrogen Sulfide*)
Vapor Density:	1.17 (air = 1)
Specific Gravity:	1.79 (water = 1)
Water Solubility:	Soluble
Boiling Point:	212°F (100°C)
Melting Point:	662°F (350°C)
Molecular Weight:	56.06

EXPOSURE LIMITS

ACGIH: 1 ppm, 8-hr TWA; 5 ppm STEL (as *Hydrogen Sulfide*)

IDLH: 100 ppm (as *Hydrogen Sulfide*)

The Protective Action Criteria values are:

PAC-1 = 0.51 ppm PAC-2 = 27 ppm PAC-3 = 50 ppm (as *Hydrogen Sulfide*)

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Gloves: Neoprene (>8-hr breakthrough)

Coveralls: Tychem® Responder (>8-hr breakthrough)

Respirator: SCBA

HEALTH EFFECTS

Eyes: Severe irritation, burns and possible eye damage

Skin: Severe irritation and burns

Inhalation: Nose, throat and lung irritation, with coughing and severe shortness of breath (pulmonary edema)

Headache, dizziness, disorientation, and passing out

Higher levels can cause seizures and death

FIRST AID AND DECONTAMINATION

Remove the person from exposure.

Flush eyes with large amounts of water for at least 30 minutes. Remove contact lenses if worn. Seek medical attention immediately.

Quickly remove contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water. Seek medical attention immediately.

Begin artificial respiration if breathing has stopped and CPR if necessary.

Transfer promptly to a medical facility.

Medical observation is recommended as symptoms may be delayed.