# GUIDE METALS (POWDERS, DUSTS, SHAVINGS, BORINGS, TURNINGS, OR CUTTINGS, ETC.)

# **POTENTIAL HAZARDS**

### FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- · May react violently or explosively on contact with water.
- · Some are transported in flammable liquids.
- · May be ignited by friction, heat, sparks or flames.
- Some of these materials will burn with intense heat.
- · Dusts or fumes may form explosive mixtures in air.
- Containers may explode when heated.
- · May re-ignite after fire is extinguished.

### HEALTH

- Oxides from metallic fires are a severe health hazard.
- · Inhalation or contact with substance or decomposition products may cause severe injury or death.
- Fire may produce irritating, corrosive and/or toxic gases.
- Runoff from fire control or dilution water may cause environmental contamination.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- CALL 911. Then call emergency response telephone number on shipping paper. If shipping paper not available or no answer, refer to appropriate telephone number listed on the inside back cover.
- Stay upwind, uphill and/or upstream.
- Keep unauthorized personnel away.

#### PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Wear positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Structural firefighters' protective clothing provides thermal protection but only limited chemical protection.

#### EVACUATION

### Immediate precautionary measure

 Isolate spill or leak area in all directions for at least 50 meters (150 feet) for liquids and at least 25 meters (75 feet) for solids.

### Large Spill

Consider initial downwind evacuation for at least 50 meters (160 feet).

#### Fire

 If tank, rail tank car or highway tank is involved in a fire, ISOLATE for 800 meters (1/2 mile) in all directions; also, consider initial evacuation for 800 meters (1/2 mile) in all directions.

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# **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

### FIRE

- DO NOT USE WATER, FOAM OR CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Dousing metallic fires with water will generate hydrogen gas, an extremely dangerous explosion hazard, particularly if fire is in a confined environment (i.e., building, cargo hold, etc.).
- Use DRY sand, graphite powder, dry sodium chloride-based extinguishers, or class D extinguishers.
- Confining and smothering metal fires is preferable rather than applying water.
- If it can be done safely, move undamaged containers away from the area around the fire.

## Fire Involving Tanks, Rail Tank Cars or Highway Tanks

• If impossible to extinguish, protect surroundings and allow fire to burn itself out.

#### SPILL OR LEAK

- ELIMINATE all ignition sources (no smoking, flares, sparks or flames) from immediate area.
- · Do not touch or walk through spilled material.
- · Stop leak if you can do it without risk.
- · Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.

#### **FIRST AID**

Refer to the "General First Aid" section.



In Canada, an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) may be required for this product. Please consult the shipping paper and/or the "ERAP" section.