

**EMERGENCIES AND INCIDENTS
IMMEDIATE ACTION INFORMATION
Guide UN41 – INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES**

Reference: SAA/SNZ HB76: 2004 Dangerous Goods Initial Emergency Response Guide

GUIDE 41	INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES
HAZARDS	
Fire or Explosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some are transported in highly flammable substances. • May contain materials of other classes, e.g. toxics, corrosives and combustibles.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhalation or contact with substance may cause infection, disease or death. • Runoff from fire control or dilution water may pollute waterways. <p>Note: Damaged packages containing solid CO₂ as a refrigerant are likely to produce water or frost from condensation of air. Do not touch this liquid as it could be contaminated by the contents of the package.</p>
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear SCBA and chemical splash suit..
PUBLIC SAFETY	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMMEDIATELY CONTACT POLICE OR FIRE BRIGADE (SEE PAGE 277 OF REFERENCE ABOVE) • Spill or leak area should be isolated immediately for at least 25 m in all directions. • Keep unauthorised personnel away. • Keep upwind and to the higher ground. • Obtain identity of material (s) involved.
Evacuation	<p>Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a large container (including rail or road tankers) is involved in a fire, consider initial evacuation for 100 m in all directions.

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EMERGENCY	RESPONSE
Fire	<p>Small Fire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray or foam. <p>Large Fire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use water spray, fog or foam. • If safe to do so, move undamaged containers from the fire area. • Cool containers with flooding quantities of water until well after fire is out. <p>Fire Involving tanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdraw immediately in case of rising sound from venting safety devices or discolouration of tank. • ALWAYS stay away from tank ends
Spill or Leak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch or walk through spilled material. • Stop leak if safe to do so-Prevent entry into waterways, drains or confined areas. • Water spray may be used to knock down or divert vapour clouds. • Prevent dust cloud. • Avoid inhalation of asbestos dust. • SEEK EXPERT ADVICE ON HANDLING AND DISPOSAL
First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove victim to fresh air – Apply resuscitation if victim is not breathing-Administer oxygen if breathing is difficult. • Remove and isolate contaminated clothing and shoes immediately. • Remove material from skin immediately. • In case of contact with material, immediately flush eyes or skin with running water for at least 15 minutes. • Shower and wash with soap and water. • Keep victim warm and quiet – Obtain immediate medical care. • Ensure that attending medical personnel are aware of identity and nature of the product(s) involved, and take precautions to protect themselves.