

Some observations for stoprailcongestion.com by David J. Pollock.

1. The recent derailment in Harvard Illinois indicated a tank car of ethylene oxide. This chemical amongst many others transported by rail can be extremely hazardous, see attached download from osha. Hazardous chemicals transported by rail are too numerous to enumerate. Perhaps an outline of banded products for transportation through a major cities, such as in Chicago, Minneapolis etc. that have tunnels might be enlightning. In any case a wide variety of chemicals will potentially find their way through Barrington. Gasoline, HCl, liquid oxygen, phosgene, benzene and the like can be considered carcinogens, lachrymators or other hazards.

Should there be a derailment in Barrington who will respond and pay for the cleanup ?

Should there be a hazmat crew on standby ? Who pays ?

With a train 5,000 to 10,000 feet long the town will essentially be cut in half. Two hazmat locations ? Evacuation procedures?

2. From some 25 Railway Companys a few years ago, there are apparently only 7 major companies remaining. Of these only 4 are major players, bringing into question monopolies and the resulting higher prices, as well as line closure and quality of service. (Our government helping us and in action. Thank you.)

3. The EJ&E also runs over Stearns Road in Bartlett, Kane County. Once the gates are down a delay can be a matter of minutes, even up to 20 !! Frustrated drivers often U-turn in an effort to find an alternate route. Extra gas and time. How long can EJ&E tie up the traffic in Barrington? Without penalty? The cost in time, gasoline, productivity and frustration cannot be calculated. Can the downgate time be limited or fined?

4. Northsiders can essentially be cut off from the Metra station, miss the train and enjoy an hours wait for the next one.

5. In this day of "green", rail transportation is a must. However gains are lost with excessive downgate time, not to speak of costs mentioned above. Gains for all of us, not just CN !!

Canadian National must be tied down to being a good neighbor and resolve the many problems an extra 15 - 20 (if we're lucky) trains a day will cause. Is there a limit to the number of **trains** per day? And perhaps the number of **rail cars** per day so we don't have trains even longer than 10,000 feet !!

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Safety and Health Topics **Ethylene Oxide**

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Ethylene oxide (EtO) is produced in large volumes and is primarily used as an intermediate in the production of several industrial chemicals, the most notable of which is ethylene glycol. It is also used as a fumigant in certain agricultural products and as a sterilant for medical equipment and supplies. Unfortunately, EtO possesses several physical and health hazards that merit special attention. EtO is both flammable and highly reactive. Acute exposures to EtO gas may result in respiratory irritation and lung injury, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, and cyanosis. Chronic exposure has been associated with the occurrence of cancer, reproductive effects, mutagenic changes, neurotoxicity, and sensitization.

In Focus

- [eTools](#)

Cont
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The following questions link to information relevant to ethylene oxide.



What OSHA standards apply?
Standards | Standard Interpretations



How do I recognize and evaluate exposure to ethylene oxide?
Exposure Evaluation | Sampling Methods



How can exposure to ethylene oxide be controlled or prevented?

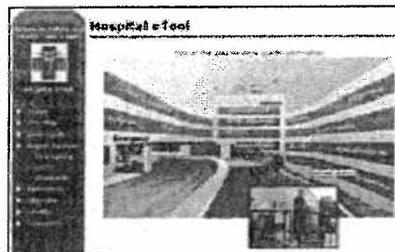


What additional information is available?
Related Safety and Health Topics Pages | Other Resources

In Focus

eTools

- [Hospital](#). OSHA. Focuses on some of the hazards and controls found in the hospital setting and describes standard requirements as well as recommended safe work practices for employee safety and health.
 - [Central Supply Module](#). Provides information on hazards and methods of exposure prevention regarding ethylene oxide gas.



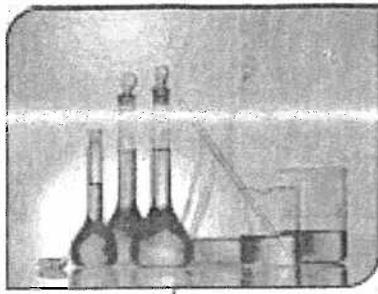
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Occupational Safety & Health Administration
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OSHA FACT sheet

Ethylene Oxide

What is ethylene oxide?

Ethylene oxide (EtO) is a flammable, colorless gas at temperatures above 51.3 °F (10.7 °C) that smells like ether at toxic levels. EtO is found in the production of solvents, antifreeze, textiles, detergents, adhesives, polyurethane foam, and pharmaceuticals. Smaller amounts are present in fumigants, sterilants for spices and cosmetics, as well as during hospital sterilization of surgical equipment.

How can ethylene oxide harm workers?

In addition to eye pain and sore throat, exposure to EtO can cause difficult breathing and blurred vision. Exposure can also cause dizziness, nausea, headache, convulsions, blisters and can result in vomiting and coughing. Both human and animal studies show that EtO is a carcinogen that may cause leukemia and other cancers. EtO is also linked to spontaneous abortion, genetic damage, nerve damage, peripheral paralysis, muscle weakness, as well as impaired thinking and memory. In liquid form, EtO can cause severe skin irritation upon prolonged or confined contact.

What should employers know about ethylene oxide?

Employee exposure is limited to one part EtO per million parts of air (1 ppm) measured as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA). Employee exposure may not exceed the short-term excursion limit of 5 ppm EtO averaged over any 15-minute sampling period. These limits are called permissible exposure limits (PELs).

Most occupational exposures to EtO are covered by the OSHA standard. The standard does not apply, however, when employers can demonstrate that the processing, use, or handling of products containing EtO will not release airborne concentrations of EtO at or above the standard's action level of 0.5 ppm. The action level is calculated as an 8-hour TWA and is the threshold for increased compliance activities (e.g., air monitoring, medical examinations, labeling, employee information, and training).

For details of the requirements in OSHA's EtO standard for occupational exposures, see *Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.1047*. *Note:* Workplaces are exempt from this standard when objective data shows that the processing, use, or handling of products containing EtO cannot release airborne concentrations of EtO at or above the action level or in excess of the excursion limit during normal conditions.

What must employers do when exposures exceed the standard's permissible exposure limits?

If employee exposures exceed either the PEL or the excursion limit, employers must take the following actions:

- Use engineering controls and work practices to control employee exposure.

- Establish and implement a written compliance program to reduce exposures to or below the TWA and exposure limit.
- Establish personal air monitoring as well as information and training programs for employees exposed to EtO at or above the action level or above the excursion limit. Conduct training upon initial job assignment and annually.
- Establish a regulated area wherever airborne concentrations of EtO are expected to exceed the 8-hour TWA or the excursion limit.
- Establish a medical surveillance program for employees exposed to EtO at concentrations above the action level of 0.5 ppm, measured as an 8-hour TWA, for more than 30 days per year.
- Place warning labels on all containers that might cause employee exposures at or above the action level or excursion limit.
- Remember that employee rotation is prohibited as a means of compliance with the 8-hour TWA or exposure limit.
- Select, provide, and maintain appropriate personal protective equipment and ensure that employees use it to prevent skin and eye contact.

When must employers require workers to use respirators?

Employers must ensure that workers use respirators to control EtO exposure in the following circumstances:

- During installation or implementation of feasible engineering controls and work practices;
- During maintenance, repair, and certain operations when engineering and work practice controls are not feasible;
- When engineering and work practice controls are not currently available to reduce exposures to or below the PEL; and
- During emergencies.

What are employers required to do concerning exposure monitoring?

To help protect workers, employers must conduct the following exposure monitoring:

- Initial monitoring to determine the airborne concentrations of EtO that workers are exposed to (representative sampling of employees' exposures is permitted).
- Periodic exposure monitoring if the airborne concentration of EtO is at or above the action level or above the 15-minute excursion limit.
- Additional monitoring if there has been a change in workplace conditions, such as a change in the

Ethylene Oxide

process or materials used, and if the change could increase employee exposures.

Note: If the exposure level is maintained below the action level, you may discontinue TWA monitoring until there is a change in production, equipment, processes, personnel, or control measures that may result in new or additional exposure to EtO.

Employers must also do the following:

- Allow affected employees or their designated representatives to observe the monitoring.
- Notify affected employees of the results of the monitoring within 15 working days of receiving the results.

Do all businesses where EtO is present need medical surveillance programs?

Employers must implement a medical surveillance program, conducted or supervised by a licensed physician, for an employee under the following circumstances:

- If the employee is assigned to an area where exposure to EtO may be at or above the action level for 30 days or more during the year.
- If the employee has been exposed to EtO in an emergency situation.

What steps must employers take to communicate with workers about EtO exposure?

Employers must do the following to communicate information to affected workers:

- Establish regulated areas where occupational exposure to EtO exceeds the 8-hr TWA or excursion limit, and clearly mark them to limit the number of workers in the regulated area and to allow only authorized persons to enter.
- Provide the signs and labels specified by the standard clearly indicating EtO's carcinogenic and reproductive hazards in regulated areas.
- Train workers upon initial assignment and then annually if they are at risk of exposure at or above the action level or above the excursion limit.
- Maintain a material safety data sheet for EtO that conforms to the provisions of OSHA's hazard communication standard, 29 *CFR* 1910.1200(g).

Are there any recordkeeping requirements concerning employee exposures to EtO?

Employers are required to maintain the following records relating to employee exposure to EtO:

- Retain employee exposure records for 30 years.

- Keep employee medical records for the duration of employment plus 30 years.
- Keep records of objective data supporting any claimed exemption from the requirements of the OSHA standard.

What should employees do to protect themselves from EtO exposure?

To protect against EtO exposure, follow these safety precautions:

- Wear goggles and skin protection at all times in areas where there is a risk of splashes from liquid EtO.
- Wear proper protective clothing and other approved personal protective equipment when working with EtO.
- Discard clothing that has been degraded by EtO.
- See a doctor if you are exposed to EtO.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while working with EtO.

How can you get more information on safety and health?

OSHA has various publications, standards, technical assistance, and compliance tools to help you, and offers extensive assistance through workplace consultation, voluntary protection programs, grants, strategic partnerships, state plans, training, and education. OSHA's *Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines* (*Federal Register* 54:3904-3916, January 26, 1989) detail elements critical to the development of a successful safety and health management system. This and other information are available on OSHA's website.

- For one free copy of OSHA publications, send a self-addressed mailing label to OSHA Publications Office, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., N-3101, Washington, DC 20210; or send a request to our fax at (202) 693-2498, or call us at (202) 693-1888.
- To order OSHA publications online at www.osha.gov, go to **Publications** and follow the instructions for ordering.
- To file a complaint by phone, report an emergency, or get OSHA advice, assistance, or products, contact your nearest OSHA office under the "U.S. Department of Labor" listing in your phone book, or call toll-free at **800-321-OSHA (6742)**. The teletypewriter (TTY) number is (877) 889-5627.
- To file a complaint online or obtain more information on OSHA federal and state programs, visit OSHA's website.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies, or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to *Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations*. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999. See also OSHA's website at www.osha.gov.