

Hydrofluoric Acid – Emergency Procedures

*First Aid must be started within seconds
in the event of contact of any form!*

Skin Exposure

- a) Immediately flood the body area with cold water thoroughly cleaning the area, then apply calcium gluconate. If no calcium gluconate is immediately available, continue rinsing the affected area until emergency medical responders arrive, using copious amounts of water. Remove contaminated clothing and footwear while rinsing.
- b) Call or have a co-worker call for medical assistance (2331 from UTD phone, 911 from a cell phone). Be sure to indicate that you were exposed to hydrofluoric acid
- c) Gently rub calcium gluconate ointment onto the affected area. Continue applying until emergency medical responders arrive.
- d) Inform responders and all others that the exposure involved hydrogen fluoride/ hydrofluoric acid.

Eye or Inhalation Exposures to HF

- a) Flush eyes with plenty of cool tap water for about 15 minutes
- b) Move inhalation exposure victim to clean air
- c) Call or have a co-worker call for medical assistance (2331 from UTD phone, 911 from a cell phone).
- d) Await emergency medical responders, informing them and all others that the exposure involved hydrogen fluoride/ hydrofluoric acid.

Hydrogen fluoride and hydrofluoric acid cause severe, deeply penetrating burns to the skin, eyes, and lungs. Although concentrated forms of these compounds are readily perceived by a burning sensation, more dilute forms are often imperceptible for many hours. This potential time delay between exposure recognition and treatment can lead to insidious and difficult to treat burns.

If you work with hydrogen fluoride or hydrofluoric acid, make certain you and your co-workers familiarize yourselves with these first aid procedures, and keep an updated supply of 2.5% calcium gluconate ointment in the work area.