

Safety Precautions for Specialty Gases.



Specialty Gases often present hazards that are not normally associated with the more commonly used gas products.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR SPECIALTY GASES

Please remember the warning below when handling any of the Specialty Gas Products.

W A R N I N G

MANY SPECIALTY GASES (INCLUDING MIXTURES) HAVE FLAMMABLE, TOXIC, CORROSIVE, OXIDIZING, PYROPHORIC, AND OTHER HAZARDOUS PROPERTIES. THESE GASES CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH, AS WELL AS PROPERTY DAMAGE, IF PROPER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED.

Some of these specific hazards associated with certain Specialty Gas Products include the following:

- **Flammable** – Gases which have the red Flammable Gas diamond-shaped label burn vigorously in the presence of air or other oxidizers and an ignition source. Under certain conditions and concentrations violent explosions are possible.
- **Toxic or Poisonous Gases** – Products having the white Inhalation Hazard label on them present hazards to living creatures exposed to them. **Inhalation of some toxic Specialty Gases can be fatal in very low concentrations while other others can cause specific organ damage after repeated exposure.** Some toxic gases have corrosive properties which can cause serious damage when in contact with certain materials. These products can also cause serious eye or skin damage upon contact.
- **Pyrophoric Gases** – These gases can react violently when in contact with air or certain other chemicals often reacting exothermically generating heat. Under certain conditions, some gases can undergo polymerization with release of large amounts of energy in the form of heat.
- **Asphyxiant Gases** – Many gases can displace air in confined spaces reducing the oxygen level needed to support life. Often this takes place with little or no warning, such as odor, and can overcome exposed personnel quickly.
- **Cryogenic Liquids** – Cryogenic liquids can cause cold burns and tissue damage because of the extremely low temperatures of these products. Liquefied compressed gases can also cause cold burns because of the rapid evaporation of the liquid. Also, all cryogenic liquids produce large volumes of gas when they vaporize and can result in rapid pressure increases when confined.