



Keeping you Knowledgeable, Safe, and in Compliance!

Ernest A. Emerson
Fire Protection Resource Library

A Volume From the Library

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Ammonium Nitrate Safety

As we approach the third anniversary of the West Fertilizer Company explosion, it is important to remind everyone of the dangers of ammonium nitrate.

Sometimes called "FGAN," fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate is a strong oxidizer and highly combustible in the presence of heat, open flame, and some metals and organic materials such as urea or acetic acid (the main component of household vinegar). Unfortunately, the damage caused by the explosion prevented state and federal investigators from determining the origin and cause of the fire that triggered the blast.

The US Chemical Safety Board has concluded its investigation and made recommendations to improve the safety of fire fighters. These recommendations will be presented to the commissioners in a future meeting, along with a proposal to coordinate the implementation of these recommendations with our partners in the Texas fire service. We are committed to ensuring that fire protection personnel have the training and education necessary to prepare and protect them in the event of future incidents involving ammonium nitrate.

Please see the sidebar for great resources on ammonium nitrate safety.



Visit us at the William B. Travis Building:
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Additional Resources:

- [Ammonium Nitrate MSDS](#)
- [Chemical Safety Board Video: Explosion in West, TX](#)
- [Chemical Safety Board Investigation Report](#)
- [Chemical Advisory on AN](#)
- [Ammonium Nitrate Safety and Security Guidelines](#)
- [Texas State Fire Marshal's Office Resources](#)

Training Videos Listed below are the titles available regarding ammonium nitrate safety.

HAZCHEM 10: INORGANIC OXIDIZERS

AV11-2510 Date Acquired: 7/29/2011 Length: 28:00 Format: DVD Author: EMERGENCY FILM GROUP

This is disc 10 of an 11 disc series. Provides training to emergency response personnel who may be called upon to respond to a leak, spill or a fire involving ammonium nitrate, calcium hypochlorite or nitric acid. This program covers: Basic hazard properties of liquid and solid oxidizers; Safety techniques for handling an emergency involving inorganic oxidizers; Where oxidizers might be found; What hazards are specific to

each chemical; Symptoms of exposure; How to assist victims who have been contaminated by oxidizers; Safe storage and handling procedures; Incompatibility issues; First response, size-up, protective clothing and breathing apparatus for incidents; Isolating the scene; Controlling vapors, containing the spill, and evacuation; Containers, DOT placarding, NFPA markings; Protecting water supplies; Fire fighting, decontamination and cleaning up spills. (c2000) View a short video sample online at <http://www.efilmgroup.com/HazMat-Hazwoper/>

[Inorganic-Oxidizers-Video.html](#)

HAZCHEM 10: INORGANIC OXIDIZERS

AV99-1177 Date Acquired: 8/23/1999 Length: 28:00 Format: VHS Author: EMERGENCY FILM GROUP

This video explains the hazards of Ammonium nitrate, calcium hypochlorite, and nitric acid as well as safe storage and handling procedures. *****Please note this is the VHS version of the previous video.**