

# BENZENE

## Chemical Names:

Benzene, Benzol, Annulene, Cyclohexatriene, Phenyl Hydride, Phene, Pyrobenzol, "Coal Tar Naphtha"

## Chemical Family:

Aromatic Hydrocarbon

## Components - May Contain Variable Amounts of:

N/A - usually contains 99% Benzene

## Extinguishing Media:

Foam, dry chemical, Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Water spray/fog can cool the fire but may not achieve extinguishment. Do not use a direct stream of water since product will float and can be re-ignited on surface of water.

## Special Fire Fighting Procedures and Precautions:

Do not enter fire area without proper protective equipment including a positive pressure NIOSH approved self-contained breathing apparatus. Fight fire from safe distance and location. Heat may build pressure/rupture closed containers, spreading fire, increasing risk of burns/injuries. Apply waterspray/fog to cool containers. Do not use a solid water stream. Notify authorities if liquid enters sewers or public waters. Unignited vapors are extremely hazardous to health. **A concentration of 2000 PPM in air is immediately dangerous to life/health.**

## Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards:

**EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE!** This material releases vapors at or below ambient temperatures. When mixed with air in certain proportions and exposed to an ignition source, these vapors can burn in the open or explode in confined spaces. Being heavier than air, flammable vapors may travel long distances along the ground before reaching a point of ignition and flashing back.

## Health Hazards:

Liquid and vapors are irritating to the eye and skin. Repeated or prolonged skin contact may result in absorption producing symptoms similar to inhalation exposure. Short-term exposure to high levels of vapors may cause CNS depression (headache, nausea, drowsiness, vertigo, fatigue, unconsciousness, convulsions), in extreme cases death may result from asphyxiation. Ingestion of product may result in vomiting; breathing of vomitus into the lungs may result in chemical pneumonia. **Benzene is a known carcinogen.**