

Dry Ice Safety

for Healthcare Professionals



What You Need



- Safety goggles



- Insulated gloves

What Is Dry Ice?

- Dry ice is carbon dioxide in solid form.
- Dry ice goes from a solid to a gas (sublimates) as it warms, releasing carbon dioxide.
- Dry ice looks like ice but is a cryogenic material. It can cause severe frostbite upon contact with skin for more than a few seconds.
- Dry ice is about twice as heavy as regular ice.



Working with Dry Ice



- Never handle dry ice with bare hands. Always wear gloves designed for very cold temperatures and safety goggles.



- If dry ice spills on counters, floors, or other surfaces, don protective gloves before handling. If the dry ice is unusable, then dispose of it properly.



- Always work in a well-ventilated room.



- Do not eat dry ice.

Storage of Dry Ice



- Store dry ice in a container that allows for the release of gas, such as a vented cooler or Styrofoam cooler.



- DO NOT store dry ice in a tightly sealed container. As dry ice changes from its frozen state to a gaseous state, it may cause an airtight container to expand and potentially explode.



▪ **Keep dry ice in a well-ventilated room.**

Carbon dioxide can replace oxygen in closed spaces, creating an oxygen-deficient environment. This can result in suffocation.

Disposing of Dry Ice



- Do not put dry ice down a sink drain or toilet or into the trash.



- Dispose of dry ice in an open container in a well-ventilated room to sublimate.

Refer to a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for more information, including first aid and accidental release measures. Consult with your Occupational Health and Safety Office for further guidance.