

# Material Safety Data Sheet

Version 1.6  
Revision Date 03/07/2005MSDS Number 300000000087  
Print Date 03/30/2005

## 1. PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

Product name : Methane

Chemical formula : CH<sub>4</sub>

Synonyms : Methane, Methyl Hydride, Marsh Gas, Fire Damp

Product Use Description : General Industrial

Company : Air Products and Chemicals, Inc  
7201 Hamilton Blvd.  
Allentown, PA 18195-1501

Telephone : 1-800-345-3148 Chemicals  
1-800-752-1597 Gases and Electronic Chemicals

Emergency telephone number : 800-523-9374 USA  
01-610-481-7711 International

## 2. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Components	CAS Number	Concentration (Volume)
Methane	74-82-8	100 %

Concentration is nominal. For the exact product composition, please refer to Air Products technical specifications.

## 3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

### Emergency Overview

High pressure gas.  
Can cause rapid suffocation.  
Extremely flammable.  
May form explosive mixtures in air.  
Immediate fire and explosion hazard exists when mixed with air at concentrations exceeding the lower flammability limit (LFL).  
High concentrations that can cause rapid suffocation are within the flammable range and should not be entered.  
Avoid breathing gas.  
Self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) may be required.

### Potential Health Effects

Inhalation : In high concentrations may cause asphyxiation. Symptoms may include loss of mobility/consciousness. Victim may not be aware of asphyxiation. Asphyxiation may bring about unconsciousness without warning and so rapidly that victim may be unable to protect themselves.

Skin contact : No adverse effect.

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Ingestion : Ingestion is not considered a potential route of exposure.

Chronic Health Hazard : Not applicable.

## Exposure Guidelines

Primary Routes of Entry : Inhalation

Target Organs : None known.

Symptoms : Exposure to oxygen deficient atmosphere may cause the following symptoms:  
Dizziness. Salivation. Nausea. Vomiting. Loss of mobility/consciousness.

## Aggravated Medical Condition

None known.

## Environmental Effects

Not harmful.

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## 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

General advice : Remove victim to uncontaminated area wearing self contained breathing apparatus. Keep victim warm and rested. Call a doctor. Apply artificial respiration if breathing stopped.

Eye contact : Rinse immediately with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes.

Skin contact : Wash with water and soap as a precaution.

Ingestion : Ingestion is not considered a potential route of exposure.

Inhalation : In case of shortness of breath, give oxygen. Move to fresh air. If breathing has stopped or is labored, give assisted respirations. Supplemental oxygen may be indicated. If the heart has stopped, trained personnel should begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation immediately. Seek medical advice.

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## 5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

Suitable extinguishing media : All known extinguishing media can be used.

Specific hazards : Combustion by-products may be toxic. Upon exposure to intense heat or flame, cylinder will vent rapidly and or rupture violently. Keep containers and surroundings cool with water spray. Extinguish fire only if gas flow can be stopped. If possible, shut off the source of gas and allow the fire to burn itself out. Do not extinguish a leaking gas flame unless absolutely necessary. Spontaneous/explosive re-ignition may occur. Extinguish any other fire. Move away from container and cool with water from a protected position. Keep adjacent cylinders cool by spraying with large amounts of water until fire burns itself out. If flames are accidentally extinguished, explosive re-ignition may occur; therefore, appropriate measures should be taken (e.g. total evacuation

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to protect persons from cylinder fragments and toxic fumes should a rupture occur). Most cylinders are designed to vent contents when exposed to elevated temperatures.

Special protective equipment for fire-fighters : Wear self contained breathing apparatus for fire fighting if necessary.

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## 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

- Personal precautions : Evacuate personnel to safe areas. Remove all sources of ignition. Never enter a confined space or other area where the flammable gas concentration is greater the 10% of its lower flammable limit. Ventilate the area.
- Environmental precautions : Do not discharge into any place where its accumulation could be dangerous. Should not be released into the environment. Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so.
- Methods for cleaning up : Ventilate the area. Approach suspected leak areas with caution.
- Additional advice : Increase ventilation to the release area and monitor concentrations. If leak is from cylinder or cylinder valve, call the Air Products emergency telephone number. If the leak is in the user's system, close the cylinder valve, safely vent the pressure, and purge with an inert gas before attempting repairs.

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## 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

### Handling

Protect cylinders from physical damage; do not drag, roll, slide or drop. Do not allow storage area temperature to exceed 50°C (122°F). Only experienced and properly instructed persons should handle compressed gases. Before using the product, determine its identity by reading the label. Know and understand the properties and hazards of the product before use. When doubt exists as to the correct handling procedure for a particular gas, contact the supplier. Do not remove or deface labels provided by the supplier for the identification of the cylinder contents. When moving cylinders, even for short distances, use a cart (trolley, hand truck, etc.) designed to transport cylinders. Leave valve protection caps in place until the container has been secured against either a wall or bench or placed in a container stand and is ready for use. Use an adjustable strap wrench to remove over-tight or rusted caps. Before connecting the container, check the complete gas system for suitability, particularly for pressure rating and materials. Before connecting the container for use, ensure that back feed from the system into the container is prevented. Ensure the complete gas system is compatible for pressure rating and materials of construction. Ensure the complete gas system has been checked for leaks before use. Employ suitable pressure regulating devices on all containers when the gas is being emitted to systems with lower pressure rating than that of the container. Never insert an object (e.g. wrench, screwdriver, pry bar, etc.) into valve cap openings. Doing so may damage valve, causing a leak to occur. Open valve slowly. If user experiences any difficulty operating cylinder valve discontinue use and contact supplier. Close container valve after each use and when empty, even if still connected to equipment. Never attempt to repair or modify container valves or safety relief devices. Damaged valves should be reported immediately to the supplier. Close valve after each use and when empty. Replace outlet caps or plugs and container caps as soon as container is disconnected from equipment. Do not subject containers to abnormal mechanical shocks which may cause damage to their valve or safety devices. Never attempt to lift a cylinder by its valve protection cap or guard. Do not use containers as rollers or supports or for any other purpose than to contain the gas as supplied. Never strike an arc on a compressed gas cylinder or make a cylinder a part of an electrical circuit. Do not smoke while handling product or cylinders. Never re-compress a gas or a gas mixture without first consulting the supplier. Never attempt to transfer gases from one cylinder/container to another. Always use backflow protective device

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in piping. Purge air from system before introducing gas. When returning cylinder install valve outlet cap or plug leak tight. Never use direct flame or electrical heating devices to raise the pressure of a container. Containers should not be subjected to temperatures above 50°C (122°F). Prolonged periods of cold temperature below -30°C (-20°F) should be avoided. All piped systems and associated equipment must be grounded.

## Storage

Containers should be stored in a purpose build compound which should be well ventilated, preferably in the open air. Observe all regulations and local requirements regarding storage of containers. Stored containers should be periodically checked for general condition and leakage. Protect containers stored in the open against rusting and extremes of weather. Containers should not be stored in conditions likely to encourage corrosion. Containers should be stored in the vertical position and properly secured to prevent toppling. The container valves should be tightly closed and where appropriate valve outlets should be capped or plugged. Container valve guards or caps should be in place. Keep containers tightly closed in a cool, well-ventilated place. Store containers in location free from fire risk and away from sources of heat and ignition. Full and empty cylinders should be segregated. Do not allow storage temperature to exceed 50°C (122°F). Smoking should be prohibited within storage areas or while handling product or containers. Display "No Smoking or Open Flames" signs in the storage areas. The amounts of flammable or toxic gases in storage should be kept to a minimum. Return empty containers in a timely manner. Flammable storage areas should be separated from oxygen and other oxidizers by a minimum distance of 20 ft. (6.1 m.) or by a barrier of non-combustible material at least 5 ft. (1.5 m.) high, having a fire resistance rating of at least 1/2 hour.

## Technical measures/Precautions

Containers should be segregated in the storage area according to the various categories (e.g. flammable, toxic, etc.) and in accordance with local regulations. Keep away from combustible material. All electrical equipment in the storage areas should be compatible with flammable materials stored. Containers containing flammable gases should be stored away from other combustible materials. Where necessary containers containing oxygen and oxidants should be separated from flammable gases by a fire resistant partition.

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## 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

### Engineering measures

Provide natural or explosion-proof ventilation that is adequate to ensure flammable gas does not reach its lower explosive limit.

### Personal protective equipment

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|---|--|
| Respiratory protection                          | : High concentrations that can cause rapid suffocation are within the flammable range and should not be entered.   |
| Hand protection                                 | : Sturdy work gloves are recommended for handling cylinders.<br>The breakthrough time of the selected glove(s) must be greater than the intended use period. |
| Eye protection                                  | : Safety glasses recommended when handling cylinders.  |
| Skin and body protection                        | : Safety shoes are recommended when handling cylinders.<br>Wear as appropriate:<br>Flame retardant protective clothing.                                      |
| Special instructions for protection and hygiene | : Ensure adequate ventilation, especially in confined areas.   |

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## 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Form	: Compressed gas.
Color	: Colorless gas
Odor	: None.
Molecular Weight	: 16 g/mol
Relative vapor density	: 0.6 (air = 1)
Relative density	: 0.42 (water = 1)
Density	: 0.044 lb/ft <sup>3</sup> (0.0007 g/cm <sup>3</sup> ) at 70 °F (21 °C) Note: (as vapor)
Specific Volume	: 24.06 ft <sup>3</sup> /lb (1.5020 m <sup>3</sup> /kg) at 70 °F (21 °C)
Boiling point/range	: -258 °F (-161 °C)
Critical temperature	: -116 °F (-82 °C)
Melting point/range	: -296 °F (-182 °C)
Flash point	: -187.7 °C
Autoignition temperature	: 1,103 °F (595 °C)
Upper flammability limit	: 15 %(V)
Lower flammability limit	: 5 %(V)
Water solubility	: 0.026 g/l

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## 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Stability	: Stable under normal conditions.
Conditions to avoid	: Heat, flames and sparks. May form explosive mixtures with air and oxidizing agents.
Materials to avoid	: Oxygen. Oxidizing agents.
Hazardous decomposition products	: Incomplete combustion may form carbon monoxide.

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## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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## Acute Health Hazard

Ingestion : No data is available on the product itself.  
Inhalation : No data is available on the product itself.  
Skin. : No data is available on the product itself.

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## 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Ecotoxicity effects

Aquatic toxicity : No data is available on the product itself.  
Toxicity to other organisms : No data available.

### Persistence and degradability

Mobility : No data available.  
Bioaccumulation : No data is available on the product itself.

### Further information

This product has no known eco-toxicological effects.

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## 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Waste from residues / unused products : Contact supplier if guidance is required. Return unused product in original cylinder to supplier. Do not discharge into areas where there is a risk of forming an explosive mixture with air. Waste gas should be flared through a suitable burner with flash back arrestor.  
Contaminated packaging : Return cylinder to supplier.

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## 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

### CFR

Proper shipping name : Methane, compressed  
Class : 2.1  
UN/ID No. : UN1971

### IATA

Proper shipping name : Methane, compressed  
Class : 2.1  
UN/ID No. : UN1971

### IMDG

Proper shipping name : METHANE, COMPRESSED  
Class : 2.1

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UN/ID No. : UN1971

## CTC

Proper shipping name : METHANE, COMPRESSED  
Class : 2.1  
UN/ID No. : UN1971

### Further Information

Avoid transport on vehicles where the load space is not separated from the driver's compartment. Ensure vehicle driver is aware of the potential hazards of the load and knows what to do in the event of an accident or an emergency.

## 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) Hazard Class(es)  
Flammable. Compressed Gas.

Country	Regulatory list	Notification
USA	TSCA	Included on Inventory.
EU	EINECS	Included on Inventory.
Canada	DSL	Included on Inventory.
Australia	AICS	Included on Inventory.
Japan	ENCS	Included on Inventory.
South Korea	ECL	Included on Inventory.
China	SEPA	Included on Inventory.
Philippines	PICCS	Included on Inventory.

EPA SARA Title III Section 312 (40 CFR 370) Hazard Classification:  
Fire Hazard. Sudden Release of Pressure Hazard.

US. California Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act (Proposition 65)

This product does not contain any chemicals known to State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or any other harm.

## 16. OTHER INFORMATION

### NFPA Rating

Health : 0  
Fire : 4  
Instability : 0

### HMIS Rating

Health : 0  
Flammability : 4  
Physical hazard : 3

Prepared by : Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Global EH&S Product Safety Department

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For additional information, please visit our Product Stewardship web site at  
<http://www.airproducts.com/productstewardship/>

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