

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.

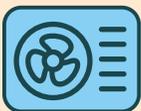
Storage of Dry Ice



▪ 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.

Prepared in coordination with the Public Health Foundation