

## **Formaldehyde**

The employer shall assure that no employee is exposed to an airborne concentration of formaldehyde which exceeds 0.75 parts formaldehyde per million parts of air (0.75 ppm) as an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA). [29 CFR 1910.1048(c)(1)]

### **Health Effects**

- Formaldehyde is used as a fixative and is commonly found in most laboratories and the morgue. [29 CFR 1910.1048]
  
- Acute:
  - Eye and respiratory irritation can result from exposure to the liquid and vapor forms.
  - Severe abdominal pains, nausea, vomiting and possible loss of consciousness could occur, if ingested in large amounts.
  
- Chronic:
  - High concentration of vapor inhaled for long periods can cause laryngitis, bronchitis or bronchial pneumonia.
  - Prolonged exposure may cause conjunctivitis.
  - Nasal tumors have been reported in animals.
  - Formaldehyde is a suspected carcinogen.

### **Possible Solutions**

According to the 29 CFR 1910.148 Formaldehyde Standard:  
Appropriate PPE must be provided according to 29 CFR 1910.132 and 29 CFR 1910.133, 29 CFR 1910.1048(h).

If there is any possibility that an employee's eyes may be splashed with solutions containing 0.1 percent or greater formaldehyde, the employer shall provide acceptable eyewash facilities within the immediate work area for emergency use. [29 CFR 1910.1048(i)(3)]