

**Occupational Health and Safety
ALERT**

SAFE WORK WITH CHLORINE

(Post on OHS Bulletin Boards for at least 30 days)

Chlorine is a powerful disinfectant and bleaching agent and is a toxic substance that presents a number of hazards. If proper precautions are not taken while working with or around chlorine, serious injury can result. The SSRSB Operations Department employees use chlorine in various forms as a water purification agent and sanitation of sewage wastes in some of our schools. One of the forms used are solid “pucks”, also known as disinfecting tablets.

There are very specific instructions for the use of these pucks. The pucks are a strong oxidizing agent (dangerous around fires) and are highly corrosive. These pucks may be fatal if ingested and the dust is irritating to the eyes, nose and throat. It is important to note that chlorine can severely affect the upper respiratory tract irritant. People exposed to chlorine, even for short periods of time, can develop a tolerance to its odor and irritating properties. For this reason, people should not rely on their sense of smell as a reliable indication that they may be experiencing an exposure to chlorine.



Below is a review of some of the precautions from the product’s Material Safety Date Sheet for handling and storing these pucks (this does not replace the importance of employees to always refer to product labels and the Material Data Sheets for complete details for all chlorine products):

- **keep out of the reach of children**
- **store only in the original container with a tight fitting lid**
- **store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area**
- **in the case of contamination, decomposition or damaged container, isolate container to open air or a well-ventilated area (if possible) and contact the Operations Department for safe disposal**
- **contact with other chlorine products or reducing agents is extremely dangerous – fire or explosion could result**
- **store away from combustible materials (such as paper, petroleum products, chemicals, rags or cardboard), heat or flame**
- **avoid contact with skin, eyes, mouth, respiratory system or clothing**
- **always wear rubber gloves and either safety goggles or a face shield**
- **do not use in any manner inconsistent with its labeling**
- **read the tablet container and product instructions carefully before handling the product**
- **follow first aid instructions in the event of an emergency**

You are part of prevention. Make handling of hazardous materials an important part of your job. When we forget simple safety practices and allow other things to take priority, then someone will likely get hurt. Attitude is everything - it’s that extra something that means you care about safety.

***For questions or more information on Occupational Health and Safety:
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