

APWU - SAFETY AND HEALTH

Safety Alert Update

Feb. 27, 2004

Issue: *OxiClean mailing*

The USPS issued a safety [stand-up talk Feb. 26](#) regarding the mailing of 75,000 product samples of OxiClean Multi-purpose stain remover.

The Postal Service message was that workers should not be alarmed if they encounter white powder from this mailing. The APWU, however, is urging members to use caution even if the material is identifiable as being from the OxiClean mailing.

Section 3 of the OxiClean Multi-purpose [Material Safety Data Sheet](#) identifies the following hazards:

Section 3:	HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION
General:	Harmful if swallowed, irritataing to eyes. Contamination may cause decomposition. Not flammable, but damp material decomposes exothermically.
Emergency:	Seek medical attention for eye exposure and ingestion
Primary Route(s) of Entry:	Eye, skin contact, inhalation, ingestion
Effects of Overexposure- Inhalation:	Dust inhalation may cause irritation of respiratory tract; may cause dizziness, drowsiness, headache, nausea and vomiting.
Effects of Overexposure- Ingestion:	Harmful if swallowed
Effects of Overexposure-Eyes:	Extremely irritating to the eyes and may cause severe damage
Effects of Overexposure-Skin:	Slightly irritating to the skin; solvent action can dry the skin.
Effects of Overexposure-Chronic Hazards:	Not listed as a carcinogen by ACGIH, IARC, NTP, OSHANo toxic chemical(s) subject to the reporting requirements of Section 313 of Title III and of 40 CFR372 are present.

Section 4 First Aid Measures recommends the following:

Section 4:	FIRST AID MEASURES
• Skin:	Wash with water and soap and rinse thoroughly. If skin irritation contiues, consult a doctor.
• Eyes:	Flush eyes immediately with water for 15 minutes. Consult doctor.
• Ingestion:	Do not induce vomiting. Rinse mouth with water and consult a doctor.
• Inhalation:	Remove to fresh air. Administer oxygen if needed. Apply artificial respiration if breathing has stopped. Seek medical attention if symptoms exist.

Action:

Although a leak or spill of this product does not suggest the presence of anthrax or some other biological agent, it must still be handled properly. If you come in contact with this product, follow the instructions on the Safety Data Sheet: Cleanup should be in accordance with the [MSDS](#) for this product – do not use chlorine or ammonia.

(Training on how to read and understand a MSDS is required under OSHA standard 1910.1200 Hazard Communication. All employees are required to receive the training prior to assignment to work.)