

What is methanol?

Methanol (methyl alcohol) is a chemical compound made up of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. It is used to manufacture silicone products.

Methanol is a colorless, toxic liquid. It smells like alcohol.

If methanol enters a stream or river, it will be consumed by naturally occurring bacteria. For a short time, this may reduce the oxygen available to the fish.

If you cannot stay indoors (shelter-in-place) during an emergency, move up-wind to avoid methanol vapors.

Methanol is flammable. A spark or an open flame may ignite the vapors. Vapors are heavier than air, and they can move along the ground.

Effects of overexposure

	<i>Possible effects</i>	<i>What to do</i>
Breathing	Headache, drowsiness	Get fresh air and medical attention.
Eyes	Contact with vapors may cause irritation, redness and swelling.	Immediately flush open eyes with cool or lukewarm water for at least 15 minutes . Get medical attention if irritation develops.
Skin	Contact with vapors may cause skin irritation.	Flush skin with cool or lukewarm water for least 15 minutes . Get medical attention if irritation develops.

Stay indoors – “shelter-in-place”

Local officials may advise you to stay indoors, known as “shelter-in-place.” This protects people and pets until the hazard of a chemical release has passed.

- ✓ Take shelter in a building.
- ✓ Close all doors and windows.

- ✓ Turn off fans, air conditioners, furnaces and pilot lights.
- ✓ Put out fires in fireplaces or wood stoves. Close all dampers.
- ✓ Go to an interior room or hallway. Use duct tape, plastic sheeting or towels to seal doors and windows.
- ✓ **If you are in a vehicle**, shut off the engine. If possible, take shelter inside the nearest building. Or turn off the fan, air conditioner and heater. Close all doors, windows and vents.
- ✓ Stay inside and listen to **cable TV, WIKI 95.3 FM or WKID 95.9 FM** for further instructions. **Call 911 for emergencies only.**
- ✓ Stay inside until local officials give the **“All Clear”** and any additional information.

What to do after the “All Clear”

- ✓ **People** who experience symptoms should go to the hospital emergency room for evaluation.
- ✓ **People, including children and pets**, can go outside.
- ✓ **Building and car** windows, dampers and vents can be opened. Heating or air conditioning systems can be used.
- ✓ **Fruits and vegetables** from outside should be washed thoroughly before use.
- ✓ **Trees, shrubs and lawns** may discolor and require additional watering.
- ✓ **Rivers, ponds, streams and swimming pools** should be unaffected.

More information

<i>Dow Corning</i>	<i>Carroll Co. Hospital</i>	<i>Emergency Mgt.</i>
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