



Make Safety Your First Priority: A Refresher on Handling Anhydrous Ammonia (NH₃) for Growers

Safety is a top priority for the fertilizer industry. Please use this checklist to serve as a reminder to keep safety in mind when handling anhydrous ammonia. Together we can ensure the continued safety of workers, growers, fertilizer facilities and our communities.

Proper Protective Clothing and Safety Equipment

- When handling NH₃, always be fully clothed with long-sleeved shirt and pants
- Wear tight-fitting goggles that are NH₃-rated. **NEVER WEAR CONTACT LENSES when handling NH₃**
- Wear properly rated chemical gloves and ensure they are cuffed at the end
- Reference manufacturer's safety data sheet (SDS) for additional safety requirements and recommendations

Proper Emergency Water Supply

- Have, at a minimum, a 5-gallon emergency water supply for each nurse tank
- Keep an additional emergency water supply in truck/tractor cab at all times
- Keep an immediately accessible personal eyewash bottle on your person at all times
- Emergency water supplies should be clean and easily accessible **AT ALL TIMES**, including when performing equipment maintenance

First Aid and Emergency Treatment

- Call 911 if NH₃ is ingested or sprayed into the eyes, mouth or nose
- **DO NOT** induce vomiting if ingested; drink copious amounts of water to dilute the chemical
- Frostbite and severe burn will result from liquid ammonia contact with skin
- Water is the only effective first aid treatment
- If skin comes into contact with liquid ammonia, continuously flush the affected area with water **for at least 15 minutes**
- Affected clothing may be frozen to the skin, **DO NOT REMOVE**

Proper Handling and Placement of Equipment

- Always stand upwind and out of the line of fire when connecting/disconnecting lines, bleeding lines or transferring NH₃
- Never assume NH₃ equipment, lines or hoses are empty
- Always check hoses for bulges, cracks, cuts, soft spots or separation from the hose coupling
- Close, bleed, disconnect and secure valves and the transfer line when equipment is unattended
- Always handle valves by the body, not by the latch or wheel. **OPEN VALVES SLOWLY**
- Never tow or park NH₃ nurse tanks or equipment in built-up areas

- When not in use, park nurse tanks, wagons and toolbars away from nearby residences, farm buildings, ditches or other obstacles
- Always follow manufacturer's specifications when installing and maintaining the coupling device
- Bleed vapor to water, where possible
- Never hit frozen valves with a hammer or tool. Never apply direct heat or flame to frozen lines or valves
- **Immediately** report equipment issues directly to the retail location manager or sales representative

Proper Care When Transporting NH3

- Adhere to local speed limits and regulations, generally a **MAXIMUM** 25-mph limit when towing a nurse tank
- Ensure all valves are closed while in transit; ensure couplers/break-aways articulate fully
- Take extreme care when crossing railroad tracks. If no crossing gate is present come to a complete stop before proceeding across the tracks
- Avoid transporting ammonia nurse tanks, wagons or toolbars through populated areas or near sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals and/or parks when possible
- Ammonia tanks must be properly labeled & placarded and must prominently display a slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem
- Always prominently display proper placards to indicate yourself as a slow-moving vehicle (SMV)
- Always use two independent safety chains of the proper rating and a hitch pin equipped with a retaining clip

In the Event of a Release

- Move upwind **IMMEDIATELY**
- Call 911 and convey clearly that NH3 is the chemical being released
- **DO NOT ATTEMPT** to address the point of release **UNLESS PROPERLY EQUIPPED AND TRAINED TO DO SO**
- Eliminate nearby ignition sources



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