



News Letter

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MAS, LLC BOMOPROPANE PARTS CLEANING WORK PRACTICE STUDY

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Possible New Standard for 1-Bromopropane

What is Bromopropane and how are workers affected?

N-Bromopropane (1-BP) is a solvent that has been used in products like dry cleaning solvents, adhesive sprays, asphalt chemicals, and in synthetic fiber manufacturing. It has been used extensively in metal cleaning operations. Workers can be exposed by inhaling the vapors or during skin contact. Neurologic effects can appear as slurred speech, confusion, or cause irritation in the upper airways and mucus membranes.

What have we done?

MAS, LLC performs work practice studies on a variety of products and processes. A study on 1-BP was performed that measured personal exposure during parts cleaning activities. A stainless steel table in our exposure characterization lab (ECL) was used as the work surface and small steel parts were washed with a known volume of 1-BP while the air concentration of 1-BP was measured.

Evaluating exposure

Evaluation on-site involves identifying potential chemical hazards. OSHA recommends that workers exposed to

chemicals such as 1-BP be evaluated to determine if the hazard is controlled.

Exposure controls

Elimination Remove the hazard of concern and/or replace it with a less toxic material.

Engineering controls

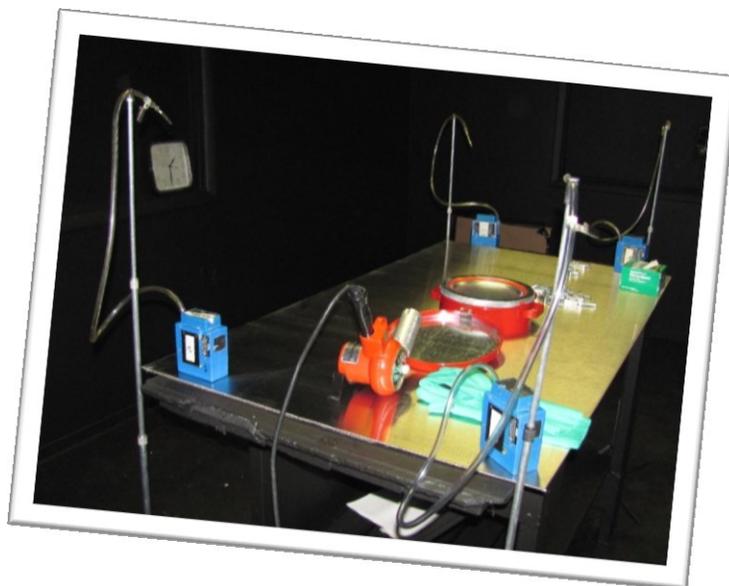
Reduce airborne chemical contaminant using air handling systems or by keeping the chemical away from worker locations.

Containment

Keep the chemical contained. Seal containers between uses, reduce the amount of time that a worker is exposed, and reduce the number of workers exposed to the chemical.

OSHA and NIOSH can help

OSHA's spring 2016 regulatory agenda projects that it will issue a request for information in August to explore the need for a permissible exposure limit (PEL) or comprehensive rule for 1-BP. The agency released a hazard alert warning workers and employers of the



dangers of occupational exposure to 1-BP, and in 2014 the National Toxicology Program (NTP) classified 1-BP as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen." OSHA does not currently have a PEL for 1-BP. OSHA has an on-site consultation program which offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses in all states across the country. (Kay Bechtold - Industry News).

NEED TO PERFORM A WORK PRACTICE STUDY?

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