

Chemical of the Week – Part 2

Hazard Profile	
Chemical Name and Pseudonyms	Potassium Hydroxide, Caustic Potash, Lye, Potassium Hydrate, 1310-58-3
UN Number	1813 (dry solid), 1814 (solution)
Chemical Formula	KOH
Hazards	Caustic, toxic by ingestion
PPE Considerations	SFPC or CPC with SCBA
Fire Fighting Considerations	Control exposure fires
Decontamination	Brush/vacuum, soap and water, flooding water, neutralization for equipment
Detection and Monitoring	Colormetric, electrochemical sensor
Chemical and Physical Properties	
Physical State	Odorless white or slightly yellow lumps, rods, sticks or pellets. May also be in solution
Vapor Pressure	<1 mm/Hg
Boiling Point	>2,000°F
Vapor Density	-
Specific Gravity	~1.45
Miscibility	Soluble in water
Flash Point	-
LEL/UEL	-
Autoignition Temp	-
pH	13.65
Toxicity	
IDLH	-
PEL/REL/STEL	2 mg/kg ³ /2 mg/kg ³ /-
LD50	3 mg/kg ³
LC50	-
Radioactive (Yes/No)	No
Medical	
Toxicological Considerations	Strong caustic causing deep burns and eye damage
Signs/Symptoms of Exposure	Chemical burns, eye damage, respiratory irritation if exposed to vapors
Medical Treatment	Fresh air, flush expose skin with water after removing dry product (brush/vacuum), and treat symptomatically
Other Information	
Contact with either water or CO ² generates heat	

Chemical Structure

