

# HANDLING DRY ICE – KNOW THE RISKS



## FROSTBITE

Due to its very cold surface temperature, dry ice can cause severe frostbite if users come in direct contact with either the dry ice itself or the vapors coming off of it.

## ASPHYXIATION

As dry ice warms up it changes directly into CO<sub>2</sub> gas, which can reduce the oxygen concentration in the area by displacing room air. Breathing higher-than-normal concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> can cause headache and drowsiness. Extremely high concentrations can lead to tremors, loss of consciousness, or even death.

## EXPLOSION

When stored in airtight containers with inadequate temperature control, CO<sub>2</sub> gas can pressurize the container, causing it to burst or rupture, potentially leading to serious injuries.

### ✓ DO

- Handle dry ice only in large, well-ventilated areas.
- Use insulated or cryogenic gloves when handling dry ice.
- Use safety eyewear such as goggles, eye shields, or face shields to protect the eyes, especially if cutting or chipping dry ice.
- Store dry ice in insulated containers or specially designed freezers.
- Dispose of dry-ice by placing it in a well-ventilated space at room temperature.

### ⊘ DO NOT

- Do not handle dry ice with bare hands or exam gloves.
- Do not store in airtight containers. The container can burst or rupture.
- Do not dispose of dry ice in sinks, toilets, or drains. It can cause structural damage.
- Do not dispose of dry ice in the trash/garbage or leave it unattended in minimally ventilated areas.

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