



## **I.D.E.A. Industry Update - October 4, 2002**

### **I.D.E.A. Fourth Annual General Meeting and Conference**

Plans for the I.D.E.A. Fourth Annual General Meeting and Conference are well underway. Our format will be similar to last year, with a host reception just prior to the CAAR convention on February 10, 2003, followed by our Annual General Meeting and Conference on February 11, 2003. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. More details to follow shortly.

### **Quick Tips on Anhydrous Ammonia From CAAR**

Anhydrous Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) is a fertilizer. It is stored on long, white tanks on an agri-retailer's yard. The product is transferred to smaller tanks to be applied to a farmers' field. At atmospheric temperature and pressure,  $\text{NH}_3$  is a gas. It is transported and stored under pressure as a liquid. Anhydrous ammonia boils and turns to vapor at -33 degree Celcius.

Should you encounter an anhydrous ammonia cloud, you can assist by: (1) Calling the local fire or police department immediately; (2) staying at a safe distance upwind; (3) Not attempting to remove any persons from the site (only trained personnel wearing proper safety equipment can successfully remove an injured person from the scene).

The effects of exposure to anhydrous ammonia are: severe chemical burns, cold burns (frost bite) and dehydrating action.

Anhydrous ammonia likes water, so it will seek out the moistest areas of a person's body (eyes, mouth, nose, respiratory tract, etc.). If you are burned by ammonia, WATER is the only solution. Apply large amounts of water to the burn.

If you see a white vapor cloud drifting across the highway, how do you know if it is an anhydrous ammonia vapour cloud, or a cloud of steam or fog? SMELL. Anhydrous ammonia has a strong, pungent odor, which will discourage a person from remaining in a contaminated area.

If you see of smell and ammonia vapor cloud, DO NOT drive quickly right though it. Just as ammonia can choke out a person's oxygen, it can also choke out a vehicle and cause it to stall. NEVER attempt to drive through an ammonia cloud. The safest procedure in this case is to take a detour.

If you get caught in an ammonia vapor cloud, first, move upwind to clean air. Next, flush with water. All clothing, contact lenses, etc. need to be removed to ensure that no ammonia is trapped on the skin. Remember that clothing may be frozen to the skin, due to the extremely low temperatures of the product. Clothing may have to thawed with water prior to removal.

Once a victim is removed from an anhydrous ammonia spill, soak the victim in water continuously. Begin artificial respiration immediately and administer oxygen if breathing stops. Keep the victim warm and watch for signs of shock. People who have inhaled dangerous concentrations of ammonia should be

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closely watched for 24 hours.

Always apply water to an ammonia burn. DO NOT use salves and ointments, since they create a barrier that keeps the skin 'burning,' thus enhancing the burn. The affected area must be flushed with water for a minimum of 15 minutes. Salves may not be applied for at least 24 hours after the incident.

Anhydrous ammonia vapors will not always move downwind. Generally NH<sub>3</sub> vapors will move with the wind. However, due to the strong affinity between water and NH<sub>3</sub>, those vapors will seek out water (e.g., a nearby pond) even if it is not downwind.

This information is available in brochure format from CAAR. For more information, look online at [www.caar.org](http://www.caar.org).

### **Potash Firm Feted**

IMC Potash will be named to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's business hall of fame at the 2002 Achievement for Business Excellence (ABEX) awards dinner October 26 in Regina. That business hall of fame was established by the chamber to recognize businesses that have demonstrated excellence and contributed to the economic well-being of the province. IMC Potash is a subsidiary of IMC Global, the world's largest producer and marketer of phosphate and potash fertilizer for the agricultural industry. IMC Potash operates four potash mines in Saskatchewan located near Esterhazy, Bell Plaine and Colonsay and has over 1,400 employees in the province. IMC developed the first successful Saskatchewan shaft mine, which began production in Esterhazy in 1962. In 1964, IMC Potash Bell Blaine (formerly Kalium Chemicals) was the first successful solution potash mine in the world. IMC's Saskatchewan-produced potash is used throughout the world for all types of crops. Potash is also used in pharmaceuticals, food additives, rocket fuels, plastics, glass manufacturing and many other industrial uses. (Source: StarPhoenix)

### **The Truth About Email Viruses**

The truth of the matter is, you can not get a virus or any system damaging software by reading an email. Emails, that is, the ACTUAL message, can not contain viruses. This is why a virus can not exist in an email text message. They also can NOT exist in USENET (newsgroup) postings or simply "float around" the internet. Viruses must be attached to and infect an executable program (.exe, .com). Viruses and other system-destroying bugs can ONLY exist in EXECUTABLE FILES, and since e-mail is not a system file in that sense, viruses can not exist there. While reading email, you are not executing any malicious code to activate! Thus, no virus can exist. However, if you (or your computer) download a FILE attached to an e-mail or USENET posting (i.e.-binary) and RUN it, there IS a chance that file could contain a virus, since a runnable file could contain a virus. It is also very important that you DO NOT, under any circumstances, allow your email program to automatically execute an attached file. You risk infection by doing so!

Viruses are *generally* (almost always) OS (operating system)-specific. Meaning, viruses created for a DOS application can do no damage on a Macintosh, and vice-versa. If you take a careful look at these email hoaxes, you'll notice that very few are specific about which system it "infects." There has been one exception to the OS-specific rule, which is called the Microsoft Word Macro Virus, which infects documents instead of the program. This virus can affect both Macintosh and PC computers because of the way the application was written (it contains the same source code on several OS's).