

## **Dihydrogen Monoxide—The Unrecognized Killer!**

Dihydrogen monoxide (DHMO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless chemical that kills uncounted thousands of people each year. Most of these deaths are caused by the accidental inhalation of DHMO, but the dangers of this chemical do not end there. Prolonged exposure to its solid form causes severe tissue damage. Symptoms of DHMO ingestion can include excessive sweating and urination, and possibly a bloated feeling, nausea, vomiting, and body electrolyte imbalance. For those who have developed a dependency on DHMO, complete withdrawal means certain death.

Consider the KNOWN facts. Dihydrogen monoxide:

- is also known as hydroxyl acid, and is the major component of acid rain.
- contributes to the "greenhouse effect."
- may cause severe burns, especially in gaseous form.
- contributes to the erosion of our natural landscape.
- accelerates the corrosion and rusting of many metals.
- may cause electrical failures and decrease effectiveness of automobile brakes.
- has been found in excised tumors of terminal cancer patients.
- is allowed to be present in many food products.
- is sold in pure form (without warning labels!) by many profit motivated grocery store chains.

Contamination of our natural environment is reaching epidemic proportions!!! The presence of DHMO has been confirmed in every river, stream, lake, and reservoir in America. During recent months, DHMO has caused millions of dollars of damage in northern Idaho and on the coast of California.

Despite the known dangers, dihydrogen monoxide continues to be used:

- as an industrial solvent and coolant.
- by contractors like Lockheed Martin (aerospace) and Newport News (ships and submarine builders) who are conducting experiments with DHMO, and are designing multi-billion (that's billion with a "b"!!) dollar devices to utilize this chemical for applications in warfare. Hundreds of military research facilities receive tons of it through a highly sophisticated underground distribution network. The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) has admitted that it has received the chemical through its own underground network and has released tons of it into the environment. It is an open fact that employees at the INEEL contact this chemical in the workplace daily, yet neither the government nor its contractors make any effort whatsoever to monitor employees for DHMO contamination when they go home at night.

It's not too late!!!

Act NOW to prevent further contamination. Find out more about this dangerous chemical that kills thousands each year. What you don't know can hurt you, those you love, and others throughout the world. Coalition to Ban DHMO.

(Courtesy of Nathan Zohner, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Adapted from *Factsheet* by Coalition to Ban DHMO.)

### **Answer these questions.**

#### Questions:

1. Think about the scientific information provided in Nathan Zohner's fact sheet. Do you think that action should be taken to ban the release of DHMO into the environment? Why?
2. Should the banning of DHMO be done at the local, state, federal, or international level? How should such a ban be enforced?