

Isopentane Questions: True or False?

1. 60,000 gallons of explosive isopentane is stored less than 1/2 mile from the nearest homes, at the Puna Geothermal Venture geothermal well in Puna. - True.
2. Isopentane boils at 82° and its vapors may explode when mixed with air. - True.
3. An explosion of isopentane in 2004 caused a fire at the PGV geothermal plant. - True.
4. Highly toxic or explosive substances, such as hydrogen chloride, may form if isopentane is exposed to incompatible substances, such as common peroxides or other oxidizers, during use, transport, storage, or disposal. - True.
5. PGV well “loses” about 40 gallons per day of isopentane, so this chemical must continually be shipped to the geothermal plant over our roadways. - True.
6. Acute toxic effects may include death of animals, birds, or fish, and death or stunted growth in plants, occurring 2 to 4 days after exposure. – True.
7. Chronic (long term) toxic effects may include shortened life span, reproductive problems, lower fertility, and changes in appearance or behavior in exposed animals. These effects can be seen long after first exposures. - True.
8. High concentrations of isopentane in the air cause a deficiency of oxygen with the risk of unconsciousness or death. - True.
9. Workers must wear proper protective clothing, and if personnel wear contaminated clothing home, family members can be exposed. Clothing should only be laundered by personnel who have been trained on the hazards of isopentane. - True.

Sources:

“Risk Management for Hazardous Chemicals” by Jeffrey Wayne Vincoli
<http://www.inchem.org/documents/icsc/icsc/eics1153.htm>
<http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/chemical/943>

If you wish to stay informed about community action and receive the Puna Pono Alliance Newsletter and Bob Petricci's Updates, email newsletter@punapono.com with NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

Puna Pono Alliance needs funds to keep up the fight for Puna. Please contribute by credit card or PayPal at punapono.com/contribute or by check to PO Box 492668, Kaaui, HI 96749.

If you want to help in other ways please call (808) 339-4344.

We sometimes ask for people to come out and support us with testimony, especially when important legislation is being passed. This can be done in person or by email. If you have never given testimony but would like to, we can guide you in this process. It is an empowering thing to do and an action that is of immense value when it comes to passing legislation. When the people speak en masse, the politicians listen.