Material Safety Data Sheet
Potassium Hydroxide

ACC# 19431

Section 1 - Chemical Product and Company Identification

**MSDS Name:** Potassium Hydroxide  
**Synonyms:** Caustic potash; Lye; Potassium hydrate  
**Company Identification:**  
Fisher Scientific  
1 Reagent Lane  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410  
**For information, call:** 201-796-7100  
**Emergency Number:** 201-796-7100  
**For CHEMTREC assistance, call:** 800-424-9300  
**For International CHEMTREC assistance, call:** 703-527-3887

Section 2 - Composition, Information on Ingredients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAS#</th>
<th>Chemical Name</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>EINECS/ELINCS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1310-58-3</td>
<td>Potassium hydroxide (KOH)</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>215-181-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 3 - Hazards Identification

**EMERGENCY OVERVIEW**

Appearance: white or yellow solid.  
**Danger!** Corrosive. Water-reactive. Causes severe eye and skin burns. Causes severe digestive and respiratory tract burns. Harmful if swallowed.  
**Target Organs:** Respiratory system, eyes, skin.

**Potential Health Effects**

**Eye:** Causes severe eye burns. May cause irreversible eye injury. Contact may cause ulceration of the conjunctiva and cornea. Eye damage may be delayed.  
**Skin:** Causes skin burns. May cause deep, penetrating ulcers of the skin.  
**Ingestion:** Harmful if swallowed. May cause circulatory system failure. May cause perforation of the digestive tract. Causes severe digestive tract burns with abdominal pain, vomiting, and possible death.  
**Inhalation:** Harmful if inhaled. Irritation may lead to chemical pneumonitis and pulmonary edema. Causes severe irritation of upper respiratory tract with coughing, burns, breathing difficulty, and possible coma.  
**Chronic:** Prolonged or repeated skin contact may cause dermatitis. Prolonged or repeated eye contact
may cause conjunctivitis.

Section 4 - First Aid Measures

**Eyes:** Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, occasionally lifting the upper and lower eyelids. Get medical aid immediately.

**Skin:** Get medical aid immediately. Immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Discard contaminated clothing in a manner which limits further exposure.

**Ingestion:** Do not induce vomiting. If victim is conscious and alert, give 2-4 cupfuls of milk or water. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Get medical aid immediately.

**Inhalation:** Get medical aid immediately. Remove from exposure and move to fresh air immediately. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. If breathing has ceased apply artificial respiration using oxygen and a suitable mechanical device such as a bag and a mask.

**Notes to Physician:** Treat symptomatically and supportively.

Section 5 - Fire Fighting Measures

**General Information:** As in any fire, wear a self-contained breathing apparatus in pressure-demand, MSHA/NIOSH (approved or equivalent), and full protective gear. Use water with caution and in flooding amounts. Contact with moisture or water may generate sufficient heat to ignite nearby combustible materials.

**Extinguishing Media:** For small fires, use dry chemical, carbon dioxide, water spray or alcohol-resistant foam.

**Flash Point:** Not applicable.

**Autoignition Temperature:** Not applicable.

**Explosion Limits, Lower:** Not available.

**Upper:** Not available.

**NFPA Rating:** (estimated) Health: 3; Flammability: 0; Instability: 1

Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures

**General Information:** Use proper personal protective equipment as indicated in Section 8.

**Spills/Leaks:** Vacuum or sweep up material and place into a suitable disposal container. Avoid generating dusty conditions.

Section 7 - Handling and Storage

**Handling:** Wash thoroughly after handling. Use with adequate ventilation. Do not allow water to get into the container because of violent reaction. Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Do not ingest or inhale.

**Storage:** Store in a tightly closed container. Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from incompatible substances. Keep away from strong acids. Keep away from water. Keep away from metals.
Keep away from flammable liquids. Keep away from organic halogens.

### Section 8 - Exposure Controls, Personal Protection

**Engineering Controls:** Use adequate general or local exhaust ventilation to keep airborne concentrations below the permissible exposure limits.

**Exposure Limits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical Name</th>
<th>ACGIH</th>
<th>NIOSH</th>
<th>OSHA - Final PELs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potassium hydroxide (KOH)</td>
<td>2 mg/m3 Ceiling</td>
<td>none listed</td>
<td>none listed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OSHA Vacated PELs:** Potassium hydroxide (KOH): No OSHA Vacated PELs are listed for this chemical.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

- **Eyes:** Wear safety glasses and chemical goggles or face shield if handling liquids.
- **Skin:** Wear appropriate gloves to prevent skin exposure.
- **Clothing:** Wear appropriate protective clothing to prevent skin exposure.
- **Respirators:** Follow the OSHA respirator regulations found in 29 CFR 1910.134 or European Standard EN 149. Use a NIOSH/MSHA or European Standard EN 149 approved respirator if exposure limits are exceeded or if irritation or other symptoms are experienced.

### Section 9 - Physical and Chemical Properties

**Physical State:** Solid

**Appearance:** white or yellow

**Odor:** odorless

**pH:** 13.5 (0.1M solution)

**Vapor Pressure:** Not available.

**Vapor Density:** Not available.

**Evaporation Rate:** Not available.

**Viscosity:** Not available.

**Boiling Point:** 1320 deg C

**Freezing/Melting Point:** 360 deg C

**Decomposition Temperature:** Not available.

**Solubility:** Soluble in water

**Specific Gravity/Density:** 2.04

**Molecular Formula:** KOH

**Molecular Weight:** 56.1

### Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity

**Chemical Stability:** Stable. Readily absorbs carbon dioxide and moisture from the air and deliquesces (to absorb atmospheric water vapor and become liquid).

**Conditions to Avoid:** Moisture, contact with water.

**Incompatibilities with Other Materials:** Water, metals, acids.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** Oxides of potassium.

**Hazardous Polymerization:** Has not been reported.
Section 11 - Toxicological Information

RTECS#:  
CAS# 1310-58-3: TT2100000

LD50/LC50:
CAS# 1310-58-3:
  Draize test, rabbit, skin: 50 mg/24H Severe;
  Oral, rat: LD50 = 273 mg/kg;

Carcinogenicity:
CAS# 1310-58-3: Not listed by ACGIH, IARC, NTP, or CA Prop 65.

Epidemiology: No data available.
Teratogenicity: No information reported.
Reproductive Effects: No data available.
Mutagenicity: No data available.
Neurotoxicity: No data available.
Other Studies:

Section 12 - Ecological Information

Ecotoxicity: Fish: Mosquito Fish: LC50 = 80.0 mg/L; 24 Hr.; Unspecified No data available.
Environmental: No information found.
Physical: No information found.
Other: No information available.

Section 13 - Disposal Considerations

Chemical waste generators must determine whether a discarded chemical is classified as a hazardous waste. US EPA guidelines for the classification determination are listed in 40 CFR Parts 261.3. Additionally, waste generators must consult state and local hazardous waste regulations to ensure complete and accurate classification.

RCRA P-Series: None listed.
RCRA U-Series: None listed.

Section 14 - Transport Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US DOT</th>
<th>Canada TDG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shipping Name:</td>
<td>POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE, SOLID</td>
<td>POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazard Class:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Number:</td>
<td>UN1813</td>
<td>UN1813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packing Group:</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 15 - Regulatory Information

US FEDERAL

TSCA
   CAS# 1310-58-3 is listed on the TSCA inventory.

Health & Safety Reporting List
   None of the chemicals are on the Health & Safety Reporting List.

Chemical Test Rules
   None of the chemicals in this product are under a Chemical Test Rule.

Section 12b
   None of the chemicals are listed under TSCA Section 12b.

TSCA Significant New Use Rule
   None of the chemicals in this material have a SNUR under TSCA.

CERCLA Hazardous Substances and corresponding RQs
   CAS# 1310-58-3: 1000 lb final RQ; 454 kg final RQ

SARA Section 302 Extremely Hazardous Substances
   None of the chemicals in this product have a TPQ.

SARA Codes
   CAS # 1310-58-3: immediate, reactive.

Section 313
   No chemicals are reportable under Section 313.

Clean Air Act:
   This material does not contain any hazardous air pollutants.
   This material does not contain any Class 1 Ozone depletors.
   This material does not contain any Class 2 Ozone depletors.

Clean Water Act:
   CAS# 1310-58-3 is listed as a Hazardous Substance under the CWA.
   None of the chemicals in this product are listed as Priority Pollutants under the CWA.
   None of the chemicals in this product are listed as Toxic Pollutants under the CWA.

OSHA:
   None of the chemicals in this product are considered highly hazardous by OSHA.

STATE
   CAS# 1310-58-3 can be found on the following state right to know lists: California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Massachusetts.

California Prop 65
   California No Significant Risk Level: None of the chemicals in this product are listed.

European/International Regulations

European Labeling in Accordance with EC Directives

Hazard Symbols:
   C

Risk Phrases:
   R 22 Harmful if swallowed.
   R 35 Causes severe burns.

Safety Phrases:
   S 26 In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.
   S 36/37/39 Wear suitable protective clothing, gloves and eye/face pr
S 45 In case of accident or if you feel unwell, seek medical advice immediately (show the label where possible).

**WGK (Water Danger/Protection)**

- CAS# 1310-58-3: 1

**Canada - DSL/NDSL**

- CAS# 1310-58-3 is listed on Canada's DSL List.

**Canada - WHMIS**

This product has a WHMIS classification of D1B, E. This product has been classified in accordance with the hazard criteria of the Controlled Products Regulations and the MSDS contains all of the information required by those regulations.

**Canadian Ingredient Disclosure List**

- CAS# 1310-58-3 is listed on the Canadian Ingredient Disclosure List.

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**Section 16 - Additional Information**

**MSDS Creation Date:** 6/21/1999  
**Revision #8 Date:** 2/15/2008

The information above is believed to be accurate and represents the best information currently available to us. However, we make no warranty of merchantability or any other warranty, express or implied, with respect to such information, and we assume no liability resulting from its use. Users should make their own investigations to determine the suitability of the information for their particular purposes. In no event shall Fisher be liable for any claims, losses, or damages of any third party or for lost profits or any special, indirect, incidental, consequential or exemplary damages, howsoever arising, even if Fisher has been advised of the possibility of such damages.