

May 25, 2006

# EMERGENCY ROOM Please Evaluate this patient IMMEDIATELY: Hydrofluoric Acid Exposure/Injury

## Immediate treatment may be needed!

Ambulance personnel have specific MSDS, and details of injury and first aid response.

Hydrofluoric acid – potential for serious injury/death:

- Systemic toxicity (including life threatening hypocalcemia) is possible with ingestion, inhalation, and burns more than 25 square inches (160 square cm).
- Exposure to HF acid 20% to 50% solutions may not produce symptoms or signs of injury for one to eight hours after exposure.
- Fermilab first aid treatment will have included use of topical 2.5% calcium gluconate gel.
- Pain relief is a good sign of treatment success. Pain persisting longer than 30-40 minutes may indicate need for more aggressive treatment.
- Extensive burns with persisting pain may require local injection of 5% calcium gluconate solution. Calcium chloride solution is NOT to be injected (it is corrosive and may cause further injury).

Honeywell Website: excellent resource

<http://www.honeywell.com/sites/sm/chemicals/hfacid/>