

2. What's Dangerous About Ammonia?

Ammonia is highly toxic. It can severely corrode the lungs, eyes, and skin.

Exposure to ammonia can be fatal.

Ammonia can cause irreversible harm such as blindness and lung problems.



In this photo: an injured worker is decontaminated at the scene of an ammonia release in an ice cream factory

Skin exposure to ammonia can cause chemical burns, thermal burns and frostbite.



When ammonia gas is released, it combines with humidity in the air to form a vapor cloud. Even though anhydrous ammonia gas is lighter than air, an ammonia vapor cloud will often stay near the ground, especially in cold weather. This cloud can travel long distances, putting entire communities at risk.



Ammonia is flammable and can explode - especially when it is mixed with oil - as it is in ammonia refrigeration systems.