

Splash of 87% vol sulfuric acid

I was transferring, with an electric barrel pump, sulfuric acid at 87% in an electropolishing vat. Having already emptied two barrels of 40 liters, I had already dipped the pump in the third container. Being unable to see the label of the container, I leaned forward to see if it was present on the container.

Unfortunately I touched the switch of the pump (that I was holding in the left hand) and the engine set into motion for 2 to 3 seconds. This was sufficient to take the 87% sulfuric acid back up and splash a fine spray from the filler nozzle.

Acid splashes touched me at the forearm and on top of both feet. Being equipped with Personal Protective Antacid (DOLAN soaked polyester), these clothes immediately heated, which was for me a sign for removing them as soon as possible, as well as shoes.

So I immediately removed the clothes and I rushed to the emergency shower located in the same room. The first aid manager of the company was immediately informed and brought 4 x 200 ml spray of Diphoterine[®]. We emptied the 800 ml on the forearms. Unfortunately there was nothing left to apply on the feet.

Fortunately there was a specialist from the Burns Centre of Liège (he works for Luxembourg Air Rescue) in the chopper that brought me to the hospital. He immediately congratulated our first aid manager for having applied Diphoterine[®]. The doctor from the SAMU and the dermatologist of the hospital of Luxembourg did not know the product. When I arrived at the hospital, I was put again under shower for 30 minutes before being put under observation for one night (risk of lung lesions, but fortunately there was not). The treatment at the hospital was Bépanthol.

Immediately after the accident I had no pain on the forearms, except on my feet where Diphoterine could have not been applied.

Today, after 3 weeks, the forearms lesions disappeared at 90%, but I will keep some little scars on my feet (because it was only drops).

I want to point out that without Diphoterine[®] I would have had some big healed areas on my forearms.

Since recently we set up a mural eyewash with two eyewashes, a 200mL spray and an Afterwash[®].

Apart Diphoterine[®], we have also bought some Hexafluorine[®] (that we didn't know), because we also work with hydrofluoric acid (stainless steel paste).

Guy Blitgen
Special process Manager
CEODEAUX SA
L-7505 Lintgen