

## Offshore Safety Forum

### OSPHO Metal Treatment- Phosphoric Acid Solution

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OSPHO is a metal treatment often used on our vessels to prepare a metal surface for painting. ABs, deckmen and others may be asked to use this product as a part of their duties. Be aware this solution contains 75% phosphoric acid and reacts violently with common alkaline chemicals on our vessels, such as caustic soda (used to clean ovens and drains), ammonia, sodium carbonate (water softener) and others.

The liquid itself is corrosive to eyes and skin and mist can be irritating to lungs and throat. **The TDI PPE Matrix has been updated to include mandatory PPE for the use of OSPHO**, which includes: steel toed shoes, safety glasses, long pants and chemical resistant gloves. (\*\*Nitrile, latex and vinyl single use gloves all provide very good protection from phosphoric acid)

Once the liquid comes into contact with a metal surface, it begins to produce highly flammable hydrogen gas. If working in a confined area, provide fan or forced air ventilation and take frequent breaks.

**Figure 4. Chemical resistant gloves (top row, left to right): natural rubber, disposable nitrile, reusable nitrile and (bottom row, left to right) neoprene, butyl rubber, Viton, and barrier laminate.**



\*\* Evaluation by GloveNation for chemical resistance ratings of single use gloves can be found at [http://www.glovenation.com/gn\\_chem\\_chart.pdf](http://www.glovenation.com/gn_chem_chart.pdf)

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Vessel or Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Record of Attendance:

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