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| **Department:** | **Engineering** | **Area:** | **Construction** |  |
| **Subject:** | **Javex 12 Sodium Hypochlorite (Bleach) Safe Work Procedure** | | |

**JAVEX 12 SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE (BLEACH)**

**Background:**

Javex 12 sodium hypochlorite or bleach is a 7-13% available chlorine solution for use in disinfection of potable water systems. This is a controlled substance and should only be handled by employees who have WHMIS certification.

**Hazards:**

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| * May cause severe irritation or damage to eyes, skin, gastrointestinal tract, and respiratory tract | * May cause permanent eye damage or blindness |
| * Sodium hypochlorite reacts with other chemicals to produce hazardous gases | * Harmful if swallowed |

**PPE Required:**

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| * Water proof gloves | * Eye protection |

**Pre Set-Up:**

* Before useof anycontrolled substance employee must read MSDS to understand the hazards and emergency procedures associated with that substance.

**Procedure**

* Handle and pour the solution with care to avoid splashing or spills
* Mix to desired disinfection concentrations
* Bleach is highly toxic to fish. Dumping water with high concentrations of bleach into drains leading to fish bearing streams must be avoided. Use a dechlorination treatment or dump the water into an area or drain that will provide adequate dilution before it reaches a fish bearing water course
* Affix a workplace label as per WHMIS requirements if this material is stored in a container other than provided by manufacturer.

**Post Procedure/Take Down**

* Store upright with the lid tightly secured in a cool place away from heat and sunlight
* First aid:
  + If splashed in eyes, flush thoroughly with water for 15 minutes and call a Poison control centre or doctor immediately
  + If splashed on skin, take off contaminated clothing and flush skin thoroughly with water for 15 minutes. If irritation persists, call a doctor
  + Do not ingest or inhale. See MSDS or contact Nanaimo 1
  + All first aid instructions are listed on MSDS.
* Working with bleach is a safe activity if simple care and attention is taken to these procedures.

**Summary:**

* Consult MSDS
* Use safety glasses and gloves
* Treat the liquid with care, do not splash or spill
* Dispose of all treated water safely
* Keep out of eyes.
* Know first aid treatment before exposure.

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| **Revised:** | **Approved by: Dave Benere** |