

**FLINN SCIENTIFIC, INC.**  
**Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)**

MSDS #: 610.00

Revision Date: April 14, 2011

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**SECTION 1 — CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION**

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**Potassium** (Metal Sticks)

Flinn Scientific, Inc. P.O. Box 219 Batavia, IL 60510 (800) 452-1261  
 CHEMTREC Emergency Phone Number: (800) 424-9300

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**SECTION 2 — COMPOSITION, INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS**

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Potassium

CAS#: 7440-09-7

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**SECTION 3 — HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION**

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Soft, silvery metal when fresh. Odorless.  
 Old potassium may be coated with peroxides which will explode when handled or cut. This substance requires the highest level of care in storage and handling.  
 Severely corrosive to body tissues. Toxic. Avoid all body tissue contact.  
 Reacts vigorously with water.

**FLINN AT-A-GLANCE**

Health-3  
 Flammability-3  
 Reactivity-3  
 Exposure-3  
 Storage-2

0 is low hazard, 3 is high hazard

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**SECTION 4 — FIRST AID MEASURES**

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Call a physician and seek medical attention for further treatment, observation, and support after first aid.  
 Inhalation: Remove to fresh air at once. If breathing has stopped, give artificial respiration immediately.  
 Eye or External: Immediately flush with fresh water for at least 15 minutes.  
 Internal: Do NOT induce vomiting. Rinse mouth. Call a physician or poison control at once.

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**SECTION 5 — FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES**

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Flammable solid. Dangerous fire risk; reacts violently with moisture evolving much heat, spattering and flammable hydrogen gas. Very difficult to extinguish a potassium fire.  
**Fire Fighting Instructions:** Use Class D, Met-L-X, or dry sand as a fire extinguisher. Avoid water contact, violent reaction with water. Firefighters should wear PPE and SCBA with full facepiece operating in positive mode.

**NFPA CODE**

H-3  
 F-3  
 R-2  
 No Water

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**SECTION 6 — ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES**

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Restrict unprotected personnel from area. Remove all ignition sources and water. Coat with mineral oil, carefully pick up and place in a bottle with clean, dry mineral oil. Ventilate area and wash spill site after material pickup is complete. See Sections 8 and 13 for further information.

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**SECTION 7 — HANDLING AND STORAGE**

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Flinn Suggested Chemical Storage Pattern: Inorganic #1. Store with metals and metal hydrides.  
 Store under oil in a PVC coated glass bottle in a Flinn Chem-Saf can. Keep away from water and handle with dry utensils.

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**SECTION 8 — EXPOSURE CONTROLS, PERSONAL PROTECTION**

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Avoid contact with eyes, skin, and clothing. Wear chemical splash goggles, chemical-resistant gloves, and chemical-resistant apron.

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**SECTION 9 — PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

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Soft, silvery metal when fresh. Older potassium may be covered with a soft, spongy coating which could be an explosive peroxide.  
Solubility: Soluble in liquid ammonia, mercury and aniline.  
Formula: K

Formula weight: 39.0983  
Melting point: 63.2 °C  
Specific gravity: 0.862

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**SECTION 10 — STABILITY AND REACTIVITY**

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Avoid contact with oxidizers, Teflon, chlorinated solvents, water, acids.  
Shelf life: Poor.

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**SECTION 11 — TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

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Acute effects: Corrosive  
Chronic effects: N.A.  
Target organs: N.A.

ORL-RAT LD<sub>50</sub>: N.A.  
IHL-RAT LC<sub>50</sub>: N.A.  
SKN-RBT LD<sub>50</sub>: N.A.

N.A. = Not available, not all health aspects of this substance have been fully investigated.

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**SECTION 12 — ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

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Data not yet available.

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**SECTION 13 — DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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Please review all federal, state and local regulations that may apply, before proceeding.  
Flinn Suggested Disposal Method #3 is one option.

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**SECTION 14 — TRANSPORT INFORMATION**

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Shipping name: Potassium  
Hazard class: 4.3, Dangerous when wet  
UN number: UN2257  
N/A = Not applicable

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**SECTION 15 — REGULATORY INFORMATION**

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TSCA-listed, EINECS-listed (231-119-8), RCRA code D001, D002, D003.

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**SECTION 16 — OTHER INFORMATION**

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**Consult your copy of the *Flinn Science Catalog/Reference Manual*  
for additional information about laboratory chemicals.**