Ammonia is widely used as a soil fertilizer because of its efficiency and availability. However, it also poses serious health risks to workers who are exposed to it at such concentrated levels. In fact, ammonia is one of the most hazardous chemicals used in agriculture. If you apply, handle, or are exposed to ammonia fertilizer, it is important that you take necessary safety precautions to avoid serious health problems.

**Ammonia Dangers**
Ammonia is considered dangerous, as it is extremely corrosive to the eyes, skin, and lungs. If inhaled, it will irritate the eyes, nose, and throat, and can cause severe coughing or choking in higher concentrations. Those with asthma are typically especially sensitive to ammonia fumes. Even without inhalation, prolonged exposure to either the liquid or gaseous form can also result in eye damage and chemical burns on the skin.

**Protect Yourself**
- To reduce your risk of overexposure when using ammonia fertilizer, use only the amount and concentration required for the task at hand.
- Wear appropriate personal protective gear when working with ammonia, including long sleeves, thick rubber gloves and chemical-proof safety goggles. Do not wear contact lenses when working with this chemical. You may also consider wearing a full-face respirator to protect against inhalation.
- Store ammonia in a cool, dry area far away from chlorine, acid, oxidizers and metals. Be especially careful to avoid mixing chlorine and ammonia, as this can produce a toxic gas.
- Frequent inspection of storage facilities and processing equipment to prevent exposure and accidental leaks.
- Always use the product according to the directions on the label. Also, be sure to read operating instructions before using ammonia application equipment.
- When applying ammonia fertilizer, you should always have at least five gallons of clean water accessible to you in case of emergency. You should also have a separate 8-ounce eyewash bottle.
- Watch for signs of skin contact with ammonia—redness, pain, burns, and irritations. If your clothes are accidentally splashed, remove them immediately and wash your skin for 15 minutes.
- If ammonia splashes in your eyes, flush them with water for 15 minutes and seek medical treatment immediately.

**Did You Know?**
Soil contains hazardous fumes from ammonia fertilizers for a couple days after application. If you must work in an area where it was recently applied, use the proper ammonia protective gear to avoid overexposure through inhalation or skin contact.