The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has outlined procedures to be followed by emergency responders should fire break out in an area where ammonium nitrate is stored.

**Fertilizers are Essential to Life**

Without fertilizer the world would have **40% – 60% less food** to eat.

**Value as a Fertilizer**

- **Nitrate-N & Ammonium-N**
- Nitrate form moves readily with soil water to the roots; immediately available for plant uptake
- Popular source of Nitrogen (N) due to its ease of handling & high nutrient content
- **Potential Risks**
- Illegal use in explosive devices
- Can explode under extreme heat and pressure in confined spaces
- Strong oxidizing agent; can cause combustible materials (such as wood, paper and oil) to ignite
- **AMMONIUM NITRATE (AN): NH₄NO₃**

**Leading Ammonium Nitrate consuming states:**

- MISSOURI
- TENNESSEE
- ALABAMA
- TEXAS

**Emergency Firefighting Guidelines**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has outlined procedures to be followed by emergency responders should fire break out in an area where ammonium nitrate is stored.

1. **Immediately Apply Large Volumes of Water**
   - Ammonium nitrate can explode in extreme heat; keep the mass cool and extinguish the burning as quickly as possible

2. **Provide Ample Ventilation to the Fire Area**
   - Rapid dissipation of both the products of decomposition and the heat of reaction is vital

3. **Approach Fire from Upwind**
   - Vapors from burning ammonium nitrate are very toxic; self-contained breathing apparatus of types approved by the U.S. Bureau of Mines should be used to protect personnel against gases

**Steps to be Taken After Fire is Extinguished**

- Loose, contaminated and unsalvageable ammonium nitrate should be buried or dumped in water where permissible
- Residue that cannot be removed by sweeping should be washed away with a hose
- Remove wet empty bags, let dry and burn outdoors