Standard Operating Procedure

**Acetylene**

*This is an SOP template and is not complete until: 1) lab specific information is entered into the box below 2) lab specific protocol/procedure is added to the protocol/procedure section and   
3) SOP has been signed and dated by the PI and relevant lab personnel.*

Print a copy and insert into your   
*Laboratory Safety Manual* and *Chemical Hygiene Plan*.   
Refer to instructions for assistance.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Department:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Date SOP was written:** | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Date SOP was approved by PI/lab supervisor:** | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Principal Investigator:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Internal Lab Safety Coordinator/Lab Manager:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Lab Phone:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Office Phone:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Emergency Contact:** | Click here to enter text. |
| *(Name and Phone Number)* |
| **Location(s) covered by this SOP:** | Click here to enter text. |
| *(Building/Room Number)* |

**Type of SOP:**  Process Hazardous Chemical  Hazardous Class

**Purpose**

Acetylene gas is extremely flammable and potentially explosive. Additionally, it is a central nervous system depressant. In case of exposure, watch victim carefully for respiratory depression.

Fuel for oxy-acetylene welding, and other industrial uses. For laboratory and manufacturing purposes it is used as a reactant for the synthesis of vinyl chloride, acrylates as well as many other organic molecules and polymers.

**Physical & Chemical Properties/Definition of Chemical Group**

CAS#: 74-86-2

Class: Potenially Explosive Chemical and Extremely Flammable

Molecular Formula: C2H2

Form (physical state): gas

Color: colorless

Boiling point: sublimes at -81 oC. Liquefies at 0 oC at 21.5 atm.

**Potential Hazards/Toxicity**

Acetylene may form explosive mixture in contact with air. Inhalation can lead to asphyxiation due to lack of oxygen. Moderate concentrations may cause headache, drowsiness, dizziness, excitation, excess salivation, nausea, vomiting, and unconsciousness. The vapor from a liquid release may also cause incoordination, abdominal pain. Effects may be delayed. Lack of oxygen can kill. No harm expected from skin contact with vapor. Liquid may cause frostbite. Swallowing is an unlikely route of exposure, but frostbite of the lips and mouth may result from contact with the liquid. If swallowed, the liquid may cause nausea. Vapors containing acetone may irritate the eyes. Liquid may irritate and cause frostbite.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

**Respiratory Protection**

Handle the chemical in a well-ventilated area. If risk of overexposure still exists, a respirator fitted with type GAX filter of sufficient capacity may be used with proper authorization and fitting.

Respirators should be used only under any of the following circumstances:

* As a last line of defense (i.e., after engineering and administrative controls have been exhausted).
* When Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) has exceeded or when there is a possibility that PEL will be exceeded.
* Regulations require the use of a respirator.
* An employer requires the use of a respirator.
* There is potential for harmful exposure due to an atmospheric contaminant (in the absence of PEL)
* As PPE in the event of a chemical spill clean-up process

Lab personnel intending to use/wear a respirator mask must be trained and fit-tested by ORS and should contact occhealt@uga.edu. This is a UGA requirement described in more detail in the [UGA Respiratory Protection Plan](https://esd.uga.edu/sites/default/files/respiratoryprotection.pdf) and supported by the [Office of Research Occupational Health and Safety Program](https://research.uga.edu/ohsp/).

**Hand Protection**

Nitrile gloves are recommended.

NOTE: Consult with your preferred glove manufacturer to ensure that the gloves you plan on using are compatible with acetylene.

Refer to glove selection chart from the links below:

<http://www.ansellpro.com/download/Ansell_8thEditionChemicalResistanceGuide.pdf>

OR

<http://www.allsafetyproducts.biz/page/74172>

OR

<http://www.showabestglove.com/site/default.aspx>

OR

<http://www.mapaglove.com/>

**Eye Protection**

ANSI Z87 safety glasses with side shields

**Skin and Body Protection**

Lab personnel must wear full-length pants or its equivalence, closed-toe shoes, and flame-resistant laboratory coat.

**Hygiene Measures**

Avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing. Wash hands before breaks and immediately after handling the product.

**Engineering Controls**

Chemical fume hood. Good ventilation. Electrically grounded lines and equipment.

**First Aid Procedures**

**If inhaled**

Move person into fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Consult a physician.

**In case of skin contact**

Take off contaminated clothing immediately. Wash off with soap and plenty of water for 15 minutes. Take victim immediately to hospital. Consult a physician.

**In case of eye contact**

Rinse thoroughly with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, occasionally lifting the upper and lower eyelids. Get medical aid immediately. Continue to wash eyes during transport to the hospital.

**If swallowed**

Not considered a normal route of entry.

**Special Handling and Storage Requirements**

Ensure that lines and piping are engineered to prevent backflow of oxygen gas into acetylene cylinders. Steel, stainless steel, aluminum and wrought iron are the recommended materials for use with acetylene. Do NOT cut, drill, grind, weld or perform similar operations on or near containers. Electrically ground all lines and equipment. Store in a cool, well-ventilated area protected from heat, static electricity and oxidizing and combustible substances. Please store the gas cylinder in an upright position, double-chained 1/3 from the top and bottom, and at least 20 feet away from other oxidizing gas cylinders. Compressed gas cylinders need to be double-chained 1/3 from the top and 1/3 from the bottom.

**Spill and Accident Procedure**

**Chemical Spill Dial 911**

**24-7 On-Call Response to Research, Environment, Health or Safety Concerns Dial 2-5561 from a campus phone or 706-542-5561 from a non-campus line.**

**Spill** – Follow the procedures set out in the [UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.](http://research.uga.edu/docs/units/safety/manuals/Chemical-Laboratory-Safety-Manual.pdf)

[If there are any chemical-specific protocols for responding to a spill, insert them here or mark “none”:]

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# **Medical Emergency Dial 911**

**Life Threatening Emergency, After Hours, Weekends And Holidays** – Dial **911** or the emergency phone numbers listed at the beginning of the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual

*Note: All incidents that result in an injury or property damage must be reported to ORS / ESD using a University Incident/Accident Report.*

**Non-Life Threatening Emergency** – Follow the instructions in the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.

*Note: All incidents that result in an injury or property damage must be reported to ORS / ESD using a University Incident/Accident Report.*

**Decontamination/Waste Disposal Procedure**

**For general hazardous waste disposal procedures, see Appendix H of the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.**

**Chemical Specific Procedures: [to be inserted or marked as “none”]**

Wearing proper PPE, please decontaminate equipment and bench tops using soap and water. Please dispose of the used chemical and disposables contaminated with the chemical as hazardous waste.

**Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Location**

UGA personnel can access Online SDS through a link in the upper left corner of the ESD home page (<https://esd.uga.edu>) and logging in by using their UGA email user name and password.

**Protocol/Procedure (Add lab specific Protocol/Procedure here)**

Click here to enter text.

**NOTE**

Any deviation from this SOP requires approval from PI.

**Documentation of Training** (signature of all users is required)

* Prior to conducting any work with acetylene, designated personnel must provide training to his/her laboratory personnel specific to the hazards involved in working with this substance, work area decontamination, and emergency procedures.
* The Principal Investigator must provide his/her laboratory personnel with a copy of this SOP and access to the SDS provided by the manufacturer.
* The Principal Investigator must ensure that his/her laboratory personnel have attended appropriate laboratory safety training or refresher training within the last 12 months.

**Principal Investigator SOP Approval**

Print name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approval Date:

I have read and understand the content of this SOP:

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| **Name** | **Signature** | **Date** |
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