Standard Operating Procedure

**Arsenic Trioxide**

*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**

Arsenic trioxide is a carcinogenic and highly toxic chemical. This SOP provides information about its hazards and how to mitigate them through proper controls, handling, and storage. It is an important industrial precursor to other arsenic compounds used in colorless glass production, electronics, and forestry products as well as a therapeutic agent for leukemia and autoimmune diseases.

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

CAS#: 1327-53-3

Class: **Acute Toxicant**

Molecular Formula: As2O3

Form (physical state): Solid powder

Color: White

Boiling point: 457.2 ºC

**Potential Hazards/Toxicity**

**Ingestion:** Severely toxic effects may result from the accidental ingestion of the material; animal experiments indicate that ingestion of less than 5 gram may be fatal or may produce serious damage to the health of the individual. The material can produce chemical burns within the oral cavity and gastrointestinal tract following ingestion. Ingestion may produce nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, bloody stools, shock, rapid pulse and coma. Severe gastritis or gastroenteritis may occur as a result of lesions produced by vascular damage from absorbed arsenic (and not local corrosion); symptoms may be delayed for several hours.

**Eye exposure:** The material can produce chemical burns to the eye following direct contact. Vapors or mists may be extremely irritating. If applied to the eyes, this material causes severe eye damage.

**Skin contact:** The material can produce chemical burns following direct contact with the skin. Skin contact with the material may damage the health of the individual; systemic effects may result following absorption. Arsenic can cause skin irritation characterized by eczema, scaling, sensitization, and discoloration and thickening of the palms and soles. Open cuts, abraded or irritated skin should not be exposed to this material. Entry into the blood-stream through, for example, cuts, abrasions or lesions, may produce systemic injury with harmful effects. Examine the skin prior to the use of the material and ensure that any external damage is suitably protected.

**Inhalation:** If inhaled, this material can irritate the throat and lungs of some persons. Inhalation of dusts, generated by the material, during the course of normal handling, may produce toxic effects. Persons with impaired respiratory function, airway diseases and conditions such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis, may incur further disability if excessive concentrations of particulate are inhaled. Inhaling materials containing arsenic can cause severe irritation to the nose, throat and lungs. Prolonged exposure can cause severe structural damage to the nose.

**Chronic health effects:** Repeated or prolonged exposure to corrosives may result in the erosion of teeth, inflammatory and ulcerative changes in the mouth and necrosis (rarely) of the jaw. Bronchial irritation, with cough, and frequent attacks of bronchial pneumonia may ensue. Limited evidence suggests that repeated or long-term occupational exposure may produce cumulative health effects involving organs or biochemical systems. There is limited evidence that, skin contact with this product is more likely to cause a sensitization reaction in some persons compared to the general population. Long term exposure to high dust concentrations may cause changes in lung function i.e. pneumoconiosis; caused by particles less than 0.5 micron penetrating and remaining in the lung. Long-term exposure to arsenic and its inorganic salts may produce loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, low fever, persistent headache, pallor, weakness and phlegm. Skin effects include redness, eczema, pigmentation, diffuse hair loss, scaling of the palms and soles, sloughing, brittle nails, white lines or bands on the nails, loss of hair and nails, and localized swelling. **There is sufficient evidence to suggest that this material directly causes cancer in humans.**

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

**Respirator Protection**

Where risk assessment shows air-purifying respirators are appropriate use a full-face particle respirator type N100 (US) or type P3 (EN 143) respirator cartridges as a backup to engineering controls. If the respirator is the sole means of protection, use a full-face supplied air respirator. Use respirators and components tested and approved under appropriate government standards such as NIOSH (US) or CEN (EU).

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**

Handle with nitrile or chloroprene gloves. Gloves must be inspected prior to use. Use proper glove removal technique (without touching glove's outer surface) to avoid skin contact with this product. Dispose of contaminated gloves after use in accordance with applicable laws and good laboratory practices. Wash and dry hands.

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

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 approved safety glasses or goggles.

**Skin and Body Protection**

Lab coats should be worn. These laboratory coats must be appropriately sized for the individual and be buttoned to their full length. Laboratory coat sleeves must be of a sufficient length to prevent skin exposure while wearing gloves. Full length pants and close-toed shoes must be worn at all times by all individuals that are occupying the laboratory area. The area of skin between the shoe and ankle should not be exposed.

**Hygiene Measures**

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

**Engineering Controls**

Work with this chemical in a certified ducted fume hood. Facilities storing or utilizing this material should be equipped with an eyewash facility and a safety shower.

**First Aid Procedures**

**If inhaled**

If fumes or combustion products are inhaled remove from contaminated area. Lay patient down. Keep warm and rested.

**In case of skin contact**

Immediately flush body and clothes with large amounts of water, using safety shower if available for a minimum of 15 minutes. Quickly remove all contaminated clothing, including footwear.

**In case of eye contact**

Immediately hold eyelids apart and flush the eye continuously with running water for at least 15 minutes. Ensure complete irrigation of the eye by keeping eyelids apart and away from eye and moving the eyelids by occasionally lifting the upper and lower lids.

**If swallowed**

Give slurry of activated charcoal in water to drink. Never give an unconscious person anything to drink. At least 3 tablespoons in a glass of water should be given.

**Notes to physician**

Treat as per arsenic poisoning.

* Acute skin lesions such as contact dermatitis usually do not require other treatment than removal from exposure.
* If more severe symptoms of the respiratory system, the skin or the gastro-intestinal tract occur, British Anti-Lewisite (BAL, dimercaprol) may be given. Prompt administration in such cases is vital; to obtain maximum benefit such treatment should be administered within 4 hours of poisoning.
* Pre-placement and periodic medical examinations are essential for workers exposed to arsenic on a regular basis. Pre-placement physical examinations should give particular attention to allergic and chronic skin lesions, eye disease, psoriasis, chronic eczematous dermatitis, hyperpigmentation of the skin, keratosis and warts, baseline weight, baseline blood and hemoglobin counts, baseline urinary arsenic determinations. Annual physical examinations should give attention to general health, weight, skin condition, and any evidence of excessive exposure or absorption of arsenic.
* Pre-employment medical examinations should be carried out. It is not recommended to employ persons with pre-existing diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, allergic or other skin diseases, neurologic, hepatic or renal lesions in arsenic work. Periodic medical examinations of all arsenic-exposed employees (male or female) should be performed with special attention to possible arsenic related symptoms. [ILO Encyclopaedia]

**Special Handling and Storage Requirements**

**Precautions for safe handling**

Avoid all personal contact, including inhalation. Wear protective clothing when risk of exposure occurs.

**Conditions for safe storage**

Segregatefrom acids, alkalis, oxidizing agents, halogens and halogen compounds including chlorine trifluoride, fluorine, hydrogen fluoride, oxygen difluoride and sodium chlorate. Contact with nascent hydrogen may produce arsine gas (arsenic hydride). Reacts violently on contact with chlorine trifluoride, fluorine, hydrogen fluoride, oxygen difluoride, sodium chlorate and other strong oxidizers. May produce arsine gas (extremely poisonous) by contact with acids, alkalis or water in the presence of an active metal (zinc, aluminium, magnesium, manganese, sodium, iron, etc.). Store in secondary containment with Acute Toxicant label on the primary container, secondary containment and the storage location. Keep containers tightly closed in a dry, cool, and well-ventilated place.

**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”]**

**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 Arsenic Trioxide, 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:

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