

Spotlight On Safety

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SAFE USE OF INORGANIC ARSENIC

Inorganic arsenic is regulated as an occupational carcinogen by Cal/OSHA Title 8, Section 5214 of the California Code of Regulations.

Soluble inorganic **arsenic** can have immediate toxic **effects**. Ingestion of large amounts can lead to gastrointestinal symptoms such as severe vomiting, disturbances of the blood and circulation, and damage to the nervous system



Housekeeping

- Work surfaces that may become contaminated with inorganic arsenic (weighing tables, counter tops...) must be protected with absorbent paper
- If absorbent paper becomes contaminated with inorganic arsenic, fold the paper from the outer edges into the middle, put it into a plastic bag, and dispose of it as hazardous waste through WASTE.
- Never use compressed air to blow inorganic arsenic off work surfaces and avoid dry sweeping and brushing to avoid airborne exposure. If particulate matter must be removed from a surface use a moist paper towel or wipe and treat the waste as above (wear gloves during cleanup)
- If large areas become contaminated with inorganic arsenic, contact EH&S at 951-827-5528 during normal business hours or **9-1-1** after hours.

Maintenance

- The primary way to minimize exposure to inorganic arsenic is using a chemical fume hood - fume hoods are tested annually to assure proper air flow
- Wear appropriate protective clothing such as coveralls, gloves, goggles or a face shield whenever there is a likelihood of skin contact
- If the fume hood fails, lower (or close) sash and call EH&S immediately at 951-827-5528.

Emergency Procedures

- Clean all spills of inorganic arsenic immediately. For spills of crystalline material, wear gloves, lab coat, and other body protection. For spills of liquid material, contact EH&S.
- If inorganic arsenic contacts skin, wash the area thoroughly using soap and water
- If arsenic trichloride contacts skin, wash the area thoroughly and report to your supervisor immediately for transport to Riverside Community Hospital or US Health Works during its operating hours (when medical treatment is indicated or requested by the employee)
- If spills of inorganic arsenic are extensive, contact EH&S during normal business hours or **9-1-1** after hours
- Report all direct exposures to inorganic arsenic (skin/ eye contact, ingestion, inhalation) to EH&S - EH&S will determine if notification of regulatory agencies is required.

For additional information please visit www.ehs.ucr.edu or call 951-827-5528.