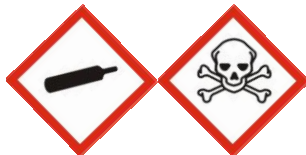




## Acutely Toxic Gases (ATGs)

H280 H330 H331 H332 H333



**Prior to SOP approval, lab-specific information must be entered in the fields marked by blue boxes.**  
**This SOP is not a substitute for hands-on training.**

Print a copy and insert into your laboratory SOP binder.

Department:	
Date SOP was written:	
Date SOP was approved by PI/lab supervisor:	
Principal investigator/lab supervisor:	Name: Signature: <u>Chitra Asokan</u>
Internal lab safety coordinator or lab manager:	Name: Lab Phone: Office Phone:
Emergency contact:	Name: Phone Number:
Location(s) covered by this SOP:	

### 1. Purpose

This SOP covers the precautions and safe handling procedures for the use of acutely toxic gases (ATGs). For a list of ATGs covered by this SOP and their use(s), see the "List of Chemicals". Procedures described in Section 12 apply to all materials covered in this SOP.

***If you have questions concerning the applicability of any recommendation or requirement listed in this procedure, contact the principal investigator/laboratory supervisor or the campus chemical hygiene officer at [ucbcho@berkeley.edu](mailto:ucbcho@berkeley.edu).***

### 2. Acutely Toxic Gases Information

Before working with any acutely toxic gases (ATGs), review the UC Berkeley EH&S publication **Toxic Gas Program on the EH&S website** (<https://ehs.berkeley.edu/toxic-gas-program>). If you have questions about Toxic Gas Program requirements, contact EH&S at 510-642-3073.

### 3. Potential Hazards/Toxicity



Toxic gases are gases that may cause significant acute health effects at low concentrations. Health effects may include severe skin or eye irritation, pulmonary edema, neurotoxicity, or other potentially fatal conditions.

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) designates ATGs by one or more of the following H codes:

**H280** Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated

**H330** Fatal if inhaled

**H331** Toxic if inhaled

**H332** Harmful if inhaled

**H333** May be harmful if inhaled

ATGs may also have other hazardous properties in addition to acute toxicity (e.g., corrosivity, pyrophoricity). Safe use requires assessing all potential hazards.

It is the principal investigator's responsibility to ensure activity-specific laboratory procedures and/or processes are taken into account when using this Chemical Class SOP.

Please review the SDS of any chemical before use (see Section 11 – SDS Location).

#### **4. Engineering Controls**

Use the engineering controls listed below unless other lab-specific information is included in the Protocol/Procedure section.

- Work with ATGs must be conducted in a fume hood unless other controls are designated in the lab-specific Protocol/Procedure section. Sash height must be kept low to avoid escaping fumes and provide a physical barrier.
- Indoor storage of all gas cylinders in this program must be in a mechanically ventilated, lockable area. Examples of mechanical ventilated areas include exhausted gas cabinets, fume hoods, and special fire code compliant gas storage rooms.
- All cylinders and gas cabinets must be clearly labeled with content and hazard information.
- All regulators, valves, piping, tubing, and fittings must be chemically compatible with the gases being used. Regulators must be compatible with the size and type of gas cylinder being used and rated for full cylinder pressure. Consult your gas supplier for approved regulators, valves, piping, tubing, and fittings.
- Cylinders must be stored upright and firmly secured to prevent falling or being knocked over. Cylinders must have tank valves securely closed and valve protection cap in place.
- Some ATGs have poor warning properties. If a particular ATG falls into this category and work with this gas will be done routinely or larger quantities will be employed, install a continuous electronic warning sensor with alarm if available. Ensure that the fume hood is operating properly and keep the sash as low as possible at all times. A ventilation monitor is required on the hood.

#### **5. Personal Protective Equipment**

At a minimum, the following PPE must be worn at all times.

##### **Eye and Face Protection**

- A. ANSI Z87.1-compliant safety glasses with side shields, or chemical splash goggles.



- Ordinary prescription glasses will NOT provide adequate protection unless they also meet ANSI standard and have compliant side shields.
- B. If the potential for explosion/splashing exists, and adequate coverage is not provided by the hood sash, a face shield must be worn.

### Skin and Body Protection

1. Gloves are required when handling hazardous chemicals.
  - Refer to specific chemical SDS for information on glove selection.
  - For additional information on glove selection, go to:  
<http://ehs.berkeley.edu/hs/63-laboratory-safety/94-glove-selection-and-usage.html>
2. Lab coats are required when handling hazardous chemicals in the lab. Select the type of lab coat according to the hazards at the specific workplace.
3. Long pants, closed-toe/closed-heel shoes, and covered legs and ankles.

### Respiratory Protection

Respiratory protection is normally not required for UC Berkeley laboratory activities. Any lab personnel considering the use of a respirator must contact EH&S for a workplace assessment.

## 6. First Aid Procedures and Medical Emergencies

*In the event of an injury, notify your supervisor immediately and EH&S within 8 hours.*



*Go to the Occupational Health Facility (Tang Health Center, on campus); if after hours, go to the nearest emergency room (Alta Bates, 2450 Ashby Ave in Berkeley); or*



*Call 911 (from a cell phone: 510-642-3333) if:*

- *it is a life threatening emergency; or*
- *you are not confident in your ability to fully assess the conditions of the environment and/or the condition of the contaminated/injured person, or you cannot be assured of your own safety; or*
- *the contaminated/injured person is not breathing or is unconscious.*

*Please remember to provide a copy of the appropriate manufacturer SDS (if available) to the emergency responders or physician. At a minimum, be ready to provide the identity/name of any hazardous materials involved.*

#### In case of skin contact

If skin contact occurs, and/or skin or clothing are on fire, immediately drench in the safety shower with copious amounts of water for no less than 15 minutes to remove any remaining contaminants. If possible to do so without further injury, remove any remaining jewelry or clothing.

#### In case of eye contact

Rinse thoroughly with plenty of water using an eyewash station for at least 15 minutes, occasionally lifting the upper and lower eyelids. Remove contact lenses if possible.

#### If inhaled

Move into fresh air.

## 7. Special Handling, Storage, and Disposal Requirements

Lab-specific information on handling and storage may be included in the Protocol/Procedure section.



### Precautions for safe handling

- Do not drag, roll, slide, or drop cylinders. A suitable hand truck, to which the cylinder is secured, must be used for cylinder movement.
- When transporting gases outside the lab, the protective cap must be in place and must cover the valve.
- Never attempt to lift a cylinder by its cap.
- Secure cylinders at all times while in use and during transport.
- Once cylinder has been connected to process, open valve slowly and carefully. If experiencing difficulty opening cylinder valve, discontinue use and contact supplier. Do not attempt to force free “frozen” or corroded valves.
- Regulators and valves must be kept free of moisture. Systems must be purged with dry inert gas (e.g., helium, nitrogen, argon, etc.) before the product is introduced and when the system is out of service.

### Conditions for safe storage

- It is essential that all ATGs be stored separately from all chemicals with which they may react. Ensure segregation of incompatible chemicals per guidance within EH&S guidelines. Also, follow any substance-specific storage guidance provided in safety data sheet (SDS) documentation.
- All compressed gas cylinders must be stored upright with valve cover caps in place. Damage to a valve can cause the cylinder to become a dangerous projectile. Cylinders must be properly secured with two non-combustible restraints to prevent them from falling at all times.

### Disposal

- All empty gas cylinders must be labeled as empty; however, empty cylinders may still contain some toxic gas, so must remain in exhausted enclosures or fire code compliant gas storage rooms. Depleted gas cylinders must be returnable to the vendor according to their guidelines.

## 8. Chemical Release

### Chemical Release Dial 911

- Accidental release – Help contaminated or injured persons. If conditions and time permit, close any open valve. Evacuate the release area. Avoid breathing vapors. Eliminate sources of ignition. Keep others from entering this area (e.g., use caution tape, barriers, etc.). *Notify supervisor and EH&S immediately.*
- Contact with body or clothes – Remove clothing and rinse body thoroughly in emergency shower for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical attention. *Notify supervisor and EH&S immediately.*
- Contact with eyes – Immediately rinse eyeballs and inner surface of eyelid with water for 15 minutes using an eyewash station by forcibly holding the eye open. Seek medical attention. *Notify supervisor and EH&S immediately.*

## 9. Cleaning and Decontamination

Lab-specific information on decontamination may be included in the Protocol/Procedure section.

All lines or ducts carrying purged or exhausted emissions of gases must be connected to a mechanical exhaust system that discharges to a safe location (i.e., presents no potential for re-entrainment into any building supply air intake or occupied area). Construction of the exhaust ducts must be chemically resistant to degradation by the gas in use. Significant emissions of corrosive or toxic gases require an



emission control device (e.g., scrubber, flare device, adsorbent) before the purged gas can be vented into the exhaust duct system. Refer to ***Toxic Gas Program***.

## **10. Hazardous Waste Disposal**

Label Waste

- All empty gas cylinders shall be labeled as empty

Dispose of Waste

- Depleted gas cylinders should be returnable to the vendor according to their guidelines.
- Contact EH&S at 510-642-3073 if you need assistance.

## **11. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Location**

SDS can be accessed online at <http://ucsdgs.com>



## -Take Ownership of Your Safety-



**Before starting any work, ask yourself:**

- 1- **What will I be doing?**
- 2- **Do I know what the hazards are?**
- 3- **Do I have everything I need to do the job safely?**
- 4- **Am I doing the job safely?**
- 5- **What can we do better?**



**12. Protocol/Procedure – Acutely Toxic Gases (ATGs)**

**Section 12 must be customized to your specific needs. Delete any procedure that does not apply to your laboratory.**

Procedure/Use	Scale	Engineering Controls/Equipment	PPE (eye, face, gloves, clothing)	Procedure Steps and Precautions
	Remember to obtain PI approval if higher scale is necessary.			
<b>Notes</b>	Any deviation from this SOP requires approval from PI.			



Procedure/Use	Scale	Engineering Controls/Equipment	PPE (eye, face, gloves, clothing)	Procedure Steps and Precautions
<b>Notes</b>	Any deviation from this SOP requires approval from PI.			





Procedure/Use	Scale	Engineering Controls/Equipment	PPE (eye, face, gloves, clothing)	Procedure Steps and Precautions
	Remember to obtain PI approval if higher scale is necessary.			
<b>Notes</b>	Any deviation from this SOP requires approval from PI.			



Procedure/Use	Scale	Engineering Controls/Equipment	PPE (eye, face, gloves, clothing)	Procedure Steps and Precautions
	<p>Remember to obtain PI approval if higher scale is necessary.</p>			



<b>Notes</b>	Any deviation from this SOP requires approval from PI.			



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

- Prior to conducting any work with ATGs, designated personnel must provide laboratory personnel with training 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 a copy of the relevant SDSs provided by the manufacturer.

I have read and understand the content of this SOP:

Name	Signature	Identifier	Date



**Appendix – List of Acutely Toxic Gases (non-exhaustive list)**

<b>Chemical Name/Formula</b>	<b>CAS#</b>	<b>Chemical Name/Formula</b>	<b>CAS#</b>
Ammonia NH <sub>3</sub>	7664-41-7	Arsenic pentafluoride AsF <sub>5</sub>	7784-36-3
Arsine AsH <sub>3</sub>	7784-42-1	Boron trichloride BCl <sub>3</sub>	10294-34-5
Boron trifluoride BF <sub>3</sub>	7637-07-2	Carbon monoxide CO	630-08-0
Cyanogen C <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub>	460-19-5	Cyanogen chloride NCCl	506-77-4
Chlorine Cl <sub>2</sub>	7782-50-5	Diazomethane H <sub>2</sub> CN <sub>2</sub>	334-88-3
Diborane B <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	19287-45-7	Fluorine F <sub>2</sub>	7782-41-4
Germane GeH <sub>4</sub>	7782-65-2	Hexaethyltetraphosphate C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>13</sub> P <sub>4</sub>	757-58-4
Hydrogen bromide HBr	10035-10-6	Hydrogen Chloride HCl	7647-01-0
Hydrogen fluoride HF	7664-39-3	Hydrogen sulfide H <sub>2</sub> S	7783-06-4
Hydrogen selenide H <sub>2</sub> Se	7783-07-5	Methyl mercaptan CH <sub>3</sub> SH	74-93-1
Nitric oxide NO	10102-43-9	Nitrogen dioxide NO <sub>2</sub>	10102-44-0
Nitrogen tetroxide N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	10544-72-6	Oxygen difluoride OF <sub>2</sub>	7783-41-7
Phosgene COCl <sub>2</sub>	75-44-5	Phosphine PH <sub>3</sub>	75-45-5
Phosphorous pentafluoride PF <sub>5</sub>	7641-19-0	Selenium hexafluoride SeF <sub>6</sub>	7783-79-1
Stibine SbH <sub>3</sub>	7803-52-3	Sulfur tetrafluoride SF <sub>4</sub>	7783-60-0
Trimethylsilyldiazomethane (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> SiCHN <sub>2</sub>	18107-18-1		



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**List of Chemicals**

Chemical(s)	Chemical(s)	Chemical(s)