

# ARSENIC FACT SHEET

North Carolina Division of Public Health • Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

## Chemical Information

- Naturally occurring element.
- White or colorless powder.
- Odorless and tasteless.
- Human carcinogen.
- Found in environment with other elements such as oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur.
- Can be exposed through inhalation, skin absorption, skin and eye contact and ingestion.
- Primarily used as wood preservative; can also be found in some pesticides.

## Hazards Identification

### **Acute Exposure:**

- Can cause stomachache, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Can also cause fatigue, abnormal heart rhythm, blood vessel damage, and impaired nerve function.

### **Chronic Exposure:**

- Can cause skin changes such as darkened skin and warts on palms, soles, and torso.
- Ingestion and inhalation of arsenic can increase risk of liver, bladder, skin, kidney, prostate, and lung cancers.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has a drinking water standard of 0.010 parts per million (ppm).

## Stability & Reactivity

- Incompatible with strong oxidizers and bromine azide.

## Handling & Storage

- Store out of reach of children.
- Store in original labeled container.