

NATURAL GAS FACT SHEET

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

Chemical Information

- Composed mostly of methane.
- Occurs mostly in Southwestern U.S. and Alaska.
- Colorless, flammable gas or liquid.
- Can be inhaled, ingested or come into contact with skin.
- Dangerous fire and explosion risk.
- Almost odorless.
- Odor is added to give warning signs.
- Considered a suffocation hazard.
- Used for fuel, cooking gas, combustion applications, and raw material for chemical reactions.

Hazards Identification

Acute Exposure:

- Poses an inhalation hazard at high concentrations by reducing oxygen in air.
- Can cause headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue and possibly coma, arrhythmia, and/or death.
Can cause mild skin irritation, dermatitis, and frostbite from product at low temperatures.
- May also cause nausea, vomiting and cramps.

Chronic Exposure:

- Unlikely long-term effects if removed from exposure area.

Stability & Reactivity

- Keep away from strong oxidizers, heat and ignition sources.
- Stable.

Handling & Storage

- Keep away from flame, sparks and very high temperatures.
- Store only in approved containers.
- Use only in well ventilated areas.

