ARSENIC

What is Arsenic?
• Naturally occurring element in soil and rocks.
• Found in environment with other elements such as oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur combining to form organic arsenic.

Common Uses
• Preservative for wood (pressure-treated).
• Pesticides for cotton and animal feed.
• Car batteries and semiconductors.

Chemical Information
• White or colorless powder.
• Odorless and tasteless.
• Human carcinogen.
• Can be exposed through inhalation, skin absorption, skin and eye contact and ingestion.
• People are most commonly exposed through drinking water.
• Many arsenic compounds can dissolve in water.

Stability & Reactivity
Incompatible with strong oxidizers and bromine azide.

Handling & Storage
• Store out of reach of children.
• Store in original labeled container.

Hazards Identification
ACUTE EXPOSURE:
• Can cause stomach ache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration.
• Can also cause fatigue, abnormal heart rhythm, blood vessel damage, and impaired nerve function.
• Can cause sore throat and irritated lungs when inhaled.

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.
• Can lead to an increased risk for diabetes and high blood pressure.
• The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has a drinking water standard of 0.010 parts per million (ppm).

For assistance managing exposures to hazardous substances, please call North Carolina Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

In case of a life threatening emergency, dial 9-1-1 immediately.