## PHOSPHORIC ACID FACT SHEET

### North Carolina Division of Public Health  ●  Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

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| *7th* highest volume chemical produced in U.S. | **Acute Exposure:**  
- Causes severe skin and eye irritation as a liquid.  
- Solid form causes second-degree burns after a few minutes of contact.  
- Causes upper respiratory tract irritation.  
- Can cause eye burns, choking, coughing, shortness of breath, headache and nausea. |
| Can be liquid or solid depending on concentration and temperature.  
Colorless, odorless, sparkling liquid or transparent, crystalline solid.  
Toxic by ingestion, inhalation and skin contact.  
Skin and eye irritant.  
Used in fertilizers, soaps, detergents, sugar refining, animal feeds, water treatment, and as a preservative and additive in food and beverages. | **Chronic Exposure:**  
- The Emergency Response Planning Guideline 1 (EPRG - 1) is 3 mg/m³. |  
- Reacts with strong caustics and most metals.  
- Reacts with metals to form flammable hydrogen gas.  
- Do not mix with any solutions containing bleach or ammonia. |
| Reacts with strong caustics and most metals.  
Reacts with metals to form flammable hydrogen gas.  
Do not mix with any solutions containing bleach or ammonia. | **Handling & Storage** |  
- Store in cool, dry, and well-ventilated area.  
- Store separate from alkalis and most metals.  
- Usually shipped as a solid or 85% solution.  
- Use with caution and keep out of the reach of children. |
Glossary
The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) defines Emergency Response Planning Guidelines (ERPGs) as guidelines for short-term exposures to airborne concentrations of high-priority, acutely toxic chemicals. The three ERPGs are defined as follows:

**ERPG-1** – maximum airborne concentration below which is believed almost all individuals could be exposed for up to 1 hour without experiencing more than mild, temporary adverse health effects.

**ERPG-2** – maximum airborne concentration below which is believed almost all individuals could be exposed for up to 1 hour without experiencing or developing serious health effects or symptoms that could impair ability to take protective action.

**ERPG-3** – maximum airborne concentration below which is believed almost all individuals could be exposed for up to 1 hour without experiencing or developing life-threatening health effects.

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