

Inhalation Anesthetic Gases and Compressed Cylinders

Description



Waste anesthetic gases (WAGs) are volatile anesthetic

gases (e.g., isoflurane, nitrous oxide, desflurane, and sevoflurane) used during a medical or surgical procedure to alleviate pain and/or distress. Exposure to WAGs may result in adverse health effects.

Symptoms of Exposure

Acute

- Headache
- Nausea
- Irritability
- Fatigue
- Drowsiness
- Difficulties in judgement and coordination

Chronic

- Liver & Kidney disease
- Reproductive effects

Safety Considerations

If you can SMELL Isoflurane, you are being exposed!

WARNING: There are no safe exposure limits for staff who are pregnant or suspect they are pregnant.

If you suspect that there is a risk for exposure, contact the EH&S Industrial Hygiene Office to discuss their sampling services at 352-392-1591.

Training and Resources

- [Waste Anesthetic Gas Fact Sheet](#)
- WAG Online Training (UF_EHS884) is recommended for those working with anesthetic gases. The course covers the following topics:
 - Potential risks of anesthetic gases
 - Appropriate setup of a waste scavenging system
 - Best practices for animal procedures involving anesthetic gas, waste disposal, and emergency response
- [Compressed Gas Cylinders Rules](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Product Rules](#)