

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER  
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 71  
VERSION: 3**

**SUBJECT/TITLE: HAZARDOUS GASES AND VAPORS**

**POLICY:** The Safety Officer is responsible for monitoring the use and disposal of hazardous gases in accordance with OVMC Policy, "Selecting, Handling, and Disposal of Hazardous Materials". This includes the coordination of an Employee Exposure Monitoring Program to ensure compliance with Cal/OSHA regulations.

All associated procedures shall be strictly adhered to when handling or disposing of hazardous gases.

**PURPOSE:** To protect patients, visitors, employees and surrounding community from the harmful effects of hazardous gases and vapors.

**DEPARTMENTS:** All.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**PROCEDURE:** Employees in the following areas shall be monitored regularly for their exposure to hazardous gases and vapors:

- Anesthesiology – Nitrous Oxide, Isoflurane
- Pathology – Formaldehyde, Ethyl Alcohol, Xylene

Other areas and gases, such as glutaraldehyde, shall be monitored as needed.

Departments should investigate incidents in which employees were exposed to hazardous vapors at levels above Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) or Short Term Exposure Level (STEL). Corrective actions should be taken to prevent further over-exposure.

The Employee Exposure Monitoring Program will be evaluated annually by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Recommended actions should be taken to improve the program.

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References: California Code of Regulations, Title 8, §§5141, 5155 Joint Commission Environment of Care Standards	
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