

Chemical Release Investigation Kit & Template (CRIKT) For Local Health Departments



CHEMICAL	TRADE NAME(S)
Cobalt	
PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION	
<p style="text-align: center;">Know the Agent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobalt is an odorless, silver-gray to black solid. It is used in various manufacturing processes and can be found naturally in the environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read about cobalt in the cobalt Fact Sheet. • For additional information, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substance/toxsubstance.asp?toxid=64 • Contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health Preparedness & Response Branch (PHP&R): 888.820.0520. ○ N.C. Emergency Management Desk: 1.800.858.0368. If appropriate, contact local Emergency Management. • Print and review form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chemically Exposed Persons Line Listing.
CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION	
<p style="text-align: center;">Evaluate Release/Exposure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define scale and scope of exposure (work with N.C. Emergency Management, HazMat, an Environmental Health Specialist at the local or state level, N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources [N.C. DENR] and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [U.S. EPA] if applicable).
<p style="text-align: center;">Identify Route of Human Chemical Exposure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify route of exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inhalation ○ Ingestion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dermal (skin) & eye contact ● Interview responders and/or exposed individuals to obtain additional information about the cobalt exposure within 24-hours.
<p>Describe Exposed Population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic area affected ○ Population affected (general population, employees and residents) ○ How population exposed (in vicinity, inhalation or direct contact) ○ Define cases within the exposed population ● Contact OEEB (919.707.5900) to assist in developing a risk assessment to be shared with officials. ● Once completed, provide OEEB with the Chemically Exposed Persons Line Listing.
<p>Implement Control Measures to Prevent Additional Exposures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decide on measures to protect citizens and the surrounding communities. ● The environmental health specialist should consult with OEEB to discuss next steps to ensure no additional individuals are exposed. ● Inform residents and businesses of the cobalt exposure through local emergency notification system, local TV and radio. Important points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location of release or exposure ○ Geographic area affected ○ Shelter-in-place instructions ○ Where to evacuate if needed ○ Where to find shelter ○ Where to seek medical care ○ For more information, please listen to your local radio station or watch your local news channel. ● Work with your local incident management team and local health director to determine steps to be taken to re-enter residences or businesses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The local incident management

	<p>team will determine when residences and businesses are acceptable for re-entry and alert the local health director, who will then participate in the final decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your local health director will then communicate with the on-scene coordinator. ○ The on-scene coordinator will then communicate to the community when they are permitted to return residences and businesses.
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INVESTIGATION RESULTS

<p style="text-align: center;">Case Finding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms related to the cobalt exposure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with your local medical facilities, local incident management team or the first responders to compile the exposed persons' information. ○ Contact local hospitals to determine total number injured, hospitalized, ED visits and deceased. ○ Contact N.C. DETECT, North Carolina's state syndromic surveillance system for additional information: 919.843.2361. ● Advise symptomatic individuals, especially children, to see their healthcare provider immediately for evaluation.
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<p style="text-align: center;">Routine Precautions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicate the following control measures with residents/business owners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open all windows once residences and businesses are re-entered.
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SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

<p style="text-align: center;">Risk Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N.C. DHHS Communications Office 919. 855.4840 is available to assist local health departments with communication
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	efforts as needed.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Glossary of Terms	<p>DENR: Department of Environment and Natural Resources</p> <p>ED: Emergency Department</p> <p>EHS: Environmental Health Specialist</p> <p>EPA: Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>OEEB: Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch</p> <p>PHP&R: Public Health Preparedness & Response</p>

