

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



CHEMICAL	TRADE NAME(S)
Cyanide	Hydrogen cyanide, Potassium cyanide, Sodium cyanide
PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION	
Know the Agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyanide is commonly found as a gas or solid in industry. In solid form cyanide is found as a white, granular or crystal solid. In gaseous form cyanide is colorless or pale-blue. Both forms of cyanide have almond-like odors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read about cyanide in the cyanide Fact Sheet. • For additional information, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substance/toxsubstance.asp?toxid=19 • 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	
Evaluate Release/Exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define scale/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 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 ○ Dermal (Skin) & eye contact • Interview responders and/or exposed individuals to obtain additional information about the cyanide exposure within 24-hours.
<p align="center">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 align="center">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/businesses of the cyanide exposure through local emergency notification system, local TV and radio. Important points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location of release/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

	<p>your local news channel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with your local incident management team and local health director to determine steps to be taken to re-enter residences/businesses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The local incident management team will determine when residences/businesses are acceptable for re-entry and alert the local health director, who will then participate in the final decision. ○ 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 home or to their place of employment.
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INVESTIGATION RESULTS

<p style="text-align: right;">Case Finding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms related to the cyanide exposure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with your local medical facilities, local incident management team and/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.
<p style="text-align: right;">Routine Precautions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the following control measures with residents/business owners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove all ignition sources from the release area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ventilate the area of the spill or leak. ○ Evacuate the immediate area around the spill or leak and wait for experts to arrive
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
Risk Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N.C. DHHS Communications Office 919.855.4840 is available to assist local health departments 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>

