

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



CHEMICAL	TRADE NAME(S)
Formaldehyde	Methanal, Methyl aldehyde, Methylene oxide, Oxymethylene, and Oxomethane
PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION	
Know the Agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formaldehyde is a colorless, flammable gas with a distinct and pungent smell. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read about formaldehyde in the Formaldehyde Fact Sheet. ○ For additional information, visit: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/toxsubstance.asp?toxid=39 • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define scale/scope of release (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).
Identify Route of Human Chemical Exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify route of exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inhalation ○ Ingestion ○ Dermal (Skin) ○ Injection

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview responders and/or exposed individuals to obtain additional information about the formaldehyde release 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 will consult with OEEB to discuss next steps to ensure no additional individuals are exposed. • Inform residents/businesses of the formaldehyde release through local emergency notification system, local TV and radio. Important points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location of release. ○ 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/businesses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The local incident management team

	<p>will determine when residences/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 home or to their place of employment.
INVESTIGATION RESULTS	
Case Finding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms related to the formaldehyde release. <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.
Routine Precautions	<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/businesses are re-entered.
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

ATSDR: Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry

DENR: Department of Environment and Natural Resources

ED: Emergency Department

EHS: Environmental Health Specialist

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

OEEB: Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch

PHP&R: Public Health Preparedness & Response

