

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



<b>CHEMICAL</b>	<b>TRADE NAME(S)</b>
Natural Gas	Natural gas (dry), Methane, Processed gas, Sweet natural gas, and Treated gas
<b>PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION</b>	
<b>Know the Agent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural gas is a colorless, flammable gas or liquid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Read about natural gas in the Natural Gas Fact Sheet.</li> <li>○ For additional information, visit: <a href="http://www.piedmontng.com/files/pdfs/safety/MaterialSafetyDataSheet_92404.pdf">www.piedmontng.com/files/pdfs/safety/MaterialSafetyDataSheet_92404.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public Health Preparedness &amp; Response Branch (PHP&amp;R): 888.820.0520.</li> <li>○ N.C. Emergency Management Desk: 1.800.858.0368. If appropriate, contact local Emergency Management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Print and review form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chemically Exposed Persons Line List.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION</b>	
<b>Evaluate Release</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Call 911 if a strong odor or sounds of gas escaping from pipe is reported. This could indicate a fire or explosion hazard.</li> </ul>

<p align="center"><b>Identify Route of Human Chemical Exposure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify route of exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inhalation</li> <li>○ Ingestion</li> <li>○ Dermal (Skin)</li> <li>○ Injection</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interview responders and/or exposed individuals to obtain additional information about the natural gas release within 24-hours.</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Describe Exposed Population</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Geographic area affected.</li> <li>○ Population affected (general population, employees, and residents).</li> <li>○ How population exposed (in vicinity, inhalation, or direct contact).</li> <li>○ Define cases within the exposed population.</li> <li>○ Contact OEEB (919.707.5900) to assist in developing a risk assessment to be shared with officials.</li> <li>○ Once completed, provide OEEB with the Chemical Exposed Person Line Listing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Implement Control Measures to Prevent Additional Exposures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decide on measures to protect citizens and the surrounding communities.</li> <li>• The environmental health specialist will consult with OEEB to discuss next steps to ensure no additional individuals are exposed.</li> <li>• Inform residents/businesses of the natural gas release through local emergency notification system, local TV and radio. Important points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Location of release.</li> <li>○ Geographic area affected.</li> <li>○ Shelter-in-place instructions.</li> <li>○ Where to evacuate if needed.</li> <li>○ Where to find shelter.</li> <li>○ Where to seek medical care.</li> <li>○ For more information, please listen to your local radio station or watch your local news channel.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Your local health director will then communicate with the on-scene coordinator.</li> <li>○ The on-scene coordinator will then communicate to the community when they are permitted to return home or to their place of employment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>INVESTIGATION RESULTS</b>	
<b>Case Finding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms related to the natural gas release. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work with your local medical facilities, local incident management team and/or the first responders to compile the exposed persons' information.</li> <li>○ Local hospitals to determine total number injured, hospitalized, ED visits, and deceased.</li> <li>○ N.C. DETECT, North Carolina's state syndromic surveillance system for additional information: 919.843.2361.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Advise symptomatic individuals, especially children, to see their healthcare provider immediately for evaluation.</li> </ul>
<b>Routine Precautions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate the following control measures with residents/business owners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Open all windows once residences/businesses are re-entered.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	
<b>Risk Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N.C. DHHS Communications Office 919. 855.4840 is available to assist local health departments as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Glossary of Terms</b>	<p><b>ATSDR:</b> Agency for Toxic Substances &amp; Disease Registry</p> <p><b>DENR:</b> Department of Environment and Natural Resources</p> <p><b>ED:</b> Emergency Department</p> <p><b>EHS:</b> Environmental Health Specialist</p> <p><b>EPA:</b> Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p><b>OEEB:</b> Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch</p> <p><b>PHP&amp;R:</b> Public Health Preparedness &amp; Response</p>

