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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHEMICAL</th>
<th>TRADE NAME(S)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formaldehyde</td>
<td>Methanal, Methyl aldehyde, Methylene oxide, Oxymethylene, and Oxomethane</td>
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## Preparing for the Investigation

### Know the Agent
- Formaldehyde is a colorless, flammable gas with a distinct and pungent smell.
  - Read about formaldehyde in the Formaldehyde Fact Sheet.
- Contact:
  - Public Health Preparedness & Response Branch (PHP&R): 888.820.0520.
- Print and review form:
  - Chemically Exposed Persons Line Listing.

## Conducting the Investigation

### Evaluate Release
- 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
- Identify route of exposure:
  - Inhalation
  - Ingestion
  - Dermal (Skin)
  - Injection
| Describe Exposed Population | • Determine the following:  
  | o Geographic area affected.  
  | o Population affected (general population, employees, and residents).  
  | o How population exposed (in vicinity, inhalation, or direct contact).  
  | o Define cases within the exposed population.  
  | o Contact OEEB (919.707.5900) to assist in developing a risk assessment to be shared with officials.  
  | o Once completed, provide OEEB with the Chemically Exposed Persons Line Listing. |
| Implement Control Measures to Prevent Additional Exposures | • 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:  
  | o Location of release.  
  | o Geographic area affected.  
  | o Shelter-in-place instructions.  
  | o Where to evacuate if needed.  
  | o Where to find shelter.  
  | o Where to seek medical care.  
  | o 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.  
  | o The local incident management team |
**INVESTIGATION RESULTS**

### Case Finding
- During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms related to the formaldehyde release.
  - 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
- Communicate the following control measures with residents/business owners.
  - Open all windows once residences/businesses are re-entered.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Risk Communication
- N.C. DHHS Communications Office 919.855.4840 is available to assist local health departments as needed.
### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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<tr>
<th>Glossary of Terms</th>
<th>ATSDR: Agency for Toxic Substances &amp; Disease Registry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DENR: Department of Environment and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>ED: Emergency Department</td>
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<td>EHS: Environmental Health Specialist</td>
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<td>EPA: Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>OEEB: Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch</td>
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<td>PHP&amp;R: Public Health Preparedness &amp; Response</td>
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