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>Methyl Alcohol</td>
<td>Methanol, Wood alcohol</td>
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**PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION**

**Know the Agent**

- Methyl alcohol is a clear and colorless liquid.
  - Read about methyl alcohol in the Methyl Alcohol Fact Sheet.
  - For additional information, visit: webwiser.nlm.nih.gov/getSubstanceData.do?substanceId=19&displaySubstanceName=Methyl+Alcohol
- Contact:
  - Public Health Preparedness & Response Branch (PHP&R): 888.820.0520.
  - Print and review form:
    - Chemically Exposed Persons Line List.

**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
- Interview responders and/or exposed individuals to obtain additional information
Describe Exposed Population

- Determine the following:
  - 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 Chemical Exposed Person 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 methyl alcohol release through local emergency notification system, local TV and radio. Important points to include:
  - 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.
  - 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.

**INVESTIGATION RESULTS**

| Case Finding | During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms related to the methyl alcohol release.
- Work with your local medical facilities, local incident management team and/or the first responders to compile the exposed persons’ information.
- Advise symptomatic individuals, especially children, to see their healthcare provider immediately for evaluation.
- Once interviews are complete, communicate with:
  - Local hospitals to determine total number injured, hospitalized, ED visits, and deceased.
  - N.C. DETECT, North Carolina’s state syndromic surveillance system for additional information: 919.843.2361. |

| 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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