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

### CHEMICAL
- Methylene chloride

### TRADE NAME(S)
- Dichloromethane, Methylene dichloride

#### PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION

**Know the Agent**

- Methylene chloride is a colorless liquid with a chloroform-like odor
  - Read about methylene chloride in the Methylene Chloride 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/Exposure**

- 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 Environmental Quality [N.C. DEQ], 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) & eye contact
- 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 ChemicallyExposedPersons Line Listing.

Implement Control Measures to Prevent Additional Exposures

- 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 methylene chloride exposure through local emergency notification system, local TV and radio. Important points to include:
  - 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 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 methylene chloride exposure.
- 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.
- Remove all ignition sources from the immediate area.
- Ventilate the area of the spill or leak.
- Restrict access to the immediate area around the spill or leak unless wearing protective equipment. |
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<th>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</th>
<th>Risk Communication</th>
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<td>N.C. DHHS Communications Office is available to assist local health departments with media inquiries as needed 919. 855.4840.</td>
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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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<tr>
<th>Glossary of Terms</th>
<th>DEQ: Department of Environmental Quality</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ED</strong>: Emergency Department</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>EHS</strong>: Environmental Health Specialist</td>
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<td><strong>EPA</strong>: Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td><strong>OEEB</strong>: Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHP&amp;R: Public Health Preparedness &amp; Response</td>
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