## 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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<tr>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td>Methyl benzene, Phenyl methane, Methyl benzol, and Toluol</td>
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### PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION

**Know the Agent**

- Toluene is a clear, colorless liquid with a distinctive odor.
  - Read about toluene in the Toluene Fact Sheet.
  - For additional information, visit: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/toxsubstance.asp?toxid=29](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/toxsubstance.asp?toxid=29)
- 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 release/exposure (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)
### 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 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 should consult with OEEB to discuss next steps to ensure no additional individuals are exposed.
- Inform residents/businesses of the toluene 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
### INVESTIGATION RESULTS

#### Case Finding

- During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms related to the toluene 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.
  - Stay upwind of the exposure area and avoid breathing vapors.
  - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment when handling broken packages.
- Wash any body part that came into contact with any of the material with abundant soap and water.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Risk Communication**
- N.C. DHHS Office of Communications - 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