

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



CHEMICAL	TRADE NAME(S)
Nickel	
PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION	
<p style="text-align: center;">Know the Agent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nickel is a hard, silvery-white metal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read about nickel in the Nickel Fact Sheet. • For additional information, visit: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/toxsubstance.asp?toxid=44 • Contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health Preparedness & Response Branch (PHP&R): 888.820.0520. ○ N.C. Emergency Management Desk: 1.800.858.0368. If appropriate, contact local Emergency Management. • Print and review form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chemically Exposed Persons Line Listing.
CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION	
<p style="text-align: center;">Evaluate Release/Exposure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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).
<p style="text-align: center;">Identify Route of Human Chemical Exposure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify route of exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inhalation (as dust) ○ Ingestion ○ Dermal (skin) & eye contact • Interview responders and/or exposed individuals to obtain additional information about the nickel exposure within 24 hours.

<p>Describe Exposed Population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.
<p>Implement Control Measures to Prevent Additional Exposures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 nickel exposure through local emergency notification system, local TV and radio. Important points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The local incident management team will determine when residences/businesses are

	<p>acceptable for re-entry and alert the local health director, who will then participate in the final decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms related to the nickel exposure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicate the following control measures with residents/business owners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove all ignition sources from the immediate area. ○ Use a high efficiency particulate arrestor (HEPA) or charcoal filter to minimize the amount of nickel dust in the air and ventilate the area. ○ People not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) should be restricted from the affected area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nickel waste should be disposed of in a sealed container in a sanitary landfill.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
Risk Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.C. DHHS Communications Office is available to assist local health departments with media inquiries as needed 919.855.4840.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Glossary of Terms	<p>DEQ: Department of Environmental Quality</p> <p>ED: Emergency Department</p> <p>EHS: Environmental Health Specialist</p> <p>EPA: Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>OEEB: Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch</p> <p>PHP&R: Public Health Preparedness & Response</p>

