

Environmental Health - Chemical Hazards Program

Ethylene Oxide Public Meeting – Cobb / R. Chris Rustin, DrPH, MS, REHS/ Aug. 19, 2019

Chemical Hazards Program History

- The Chemical Hazards Program (CHP) is part of the Environmental Health section of the Georgia Department of Public Health
 - Program Manager
 - Environmental Exposure Risk Assessor
 - Health Educator
- Established in 1998 through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- CHP addresses all issues and concerns associated with human exposure to hazardous chemicals in the environment.

ATSDR Cooperative Agreement / State Funding

- ATSDR is authorized to provide funding to state partners to carry out its mission under a Cooperative Agreement.
- 25 states receive funding for each competitive 3-year grant cycle.
- States that are funded under a Cooperative Agreement must comply with ATSDR's requirements to perform health assessments/consultations, health education and community outreach in affected communities.

Staff Roles

Environmental Exposure Risk Assessors

- Evaluate environmental, exposure and health effects data
- Identify and evaluate potential exposure pathways to determine health effects
- Author health assessments and health consultations

Health Educators

- Provide education to communities where health assessments/consultations are being conducted
- Develop and disseminate information communicating risks to impacted communities
- Obtain feedback from communities during the entire health assessment process

Public Health Consultations / Assessments

- Collaboration with ATSDR on evaluating ethylene oxide, when air monitoring data is available.
- Publish a report that summarizes:
 - ✓ Environmental sampling results (water, soil, sediment, food, air)
 - ✓ Toxicological evaluation results
 - ✓ Sensitive populations' health considerations
 - ✓ Maps (geology, demographics)
 - ✓ Intervention / mitigation measures
 - ✓ Conclusions
 - ✓ Recommendations

Public Health Response to Ethylene Oxide

- Collaborate and assist ATSDR and EPD with evaluation of public health risks of ethylene oxide
- Assist ATSDR with conducting and writing a public health consultation when air monitoring data are available.
- Develop and/or provide health education to the community
- Assist DPH cancer epidemiologists with cancer incidence assessment

For More Information

Georgia Department of Public Health
Chemical Hazards Program
dph.georgia.gov/chemical-hazards