



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic  
Substances  
and Disease Registry  
Atlanta, GA 30333

February 1, 2007

Patrick Edward Preston, Trial Attorney  
Office of Chief Counsel  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472  
(202) 646-4536

Dear Mr. Preston:

Enclosed you will find the Health Consultation produced by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). This document discusses the evaluation of the ~~EPA produced analytical data~~ which was generated from the sampling of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided manufactured homes during the time period of September 19 – October 7, 2006. This Health Consultation was derived utilizing the most valid and current scientific data available to ATSDR. Per your request, the data and the subsequent analysis of the data has not been shared with anyone other than Scott V. Wright and Joseph D. Little. In summary, the opening of windows and vents was effective in reducing formaldehyde concentrations below levels of health concern. Running the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems did not provide adequate air exchanges to adequately reduce the formaldehyde concentrations. A combination of ventilation methods may be necessary to reduce formaldehyde concentrations below levels of health concern for sensitive individuals. FEMA has not requested ATSDR to evaluate longer term formaldehyde concentrations in trailers or health concerns related to potential exposures. ATSDR will be available to provide assistance, if such data becomes available in the future. The consultation is not intended to establish FEMA's future policy concerning temporary housing units.

Please contact me directly with any questions or concerns at 770-488-7145.

Sincerely,

*Mike Allred for Mark Keim*

Mark E. Keim, MD  
Acting Associate Director  
Office of Terrorism, Preparedness and  
Emergency Response  
National Center for Environmental  
Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry

cc:

P. Michael Allred, Deputy Director, OTPER  
Joseph D. Little, ERC, DTEM  
Scott V. Wright, ERC, DTEM