

Fax 404-498-0083  
E-mail [hfrumkin@cdc.gov](mailto:hfrumkin@cdc.gov)  
FedEx deliveries:  
325 Century Boulevard  
Atlanta, GA 30345

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**From:** De Rosa, Christopher (Chris) (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2007 9:34 AM  
**To:** Frumkin, Howard (ATSDR/OA/OD); Sinks, Tom (ATSDR/OA/OD)  
**Cc:** De Rosa, Christopher (Chris) (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)  
**Subject:** Draft Letter to FEMA  
**Importance:** High

Howie and Tom,

I am resending the previous email (below) which describes my concerns regarding the formaldehyde health consultation. If I receive no objections from you, I will send the attached letter to FEMA by C.O.B Friday, March 9.

Chris

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**From:** De Rosa, Christopher (Chris) (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2007 7:22 PM  
**To:** Frumkin, Howard (ATSDR/OA/OD); Sinks, Tom (ATSDR/OA/OD)  
**Cc:** Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/ATB)  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Letter

Howie and Tom,

This is the issue that I discussed w/ you Tom this afternoon. The letter captures some of my concerns on this consult which I saw for the first time today. In my discussions w/ staff, regarding why I was not in the loop, I was informed that they were working on this under the directions of your office. I now have a clearer picture of this and have reaffirmed our SOP's that have been in place for many years. I regret this breakdown and have addressed this issue w/ our staff.

I have no intention of pursuing this any further until I have direction from your office.

Chris

Christopher T. De Rosa, M.S., Ph.D.  
Director, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
1600 Clifton Road - Mailstop F32  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
(770) 488-7003



Patrick Edward  
Preston.doc

February 27, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Preston:

It has just come to my attention that the Health Consultation "Formaldehyde Sampling at FEMA Temporary Housing Units" has been completed without a policy review by our senior technical staff. I am concerned that this health consultation is incomplete and perhaps misleading.

Formaldehyde is classified as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen. As such, there is no recognized "safe level" of exposure. Thus, any level of exposure to formaldehyde may pose a cancer risk, regardless of duration. Failure to communicate this issue is possibly misleading, and a threat to public health. I had discussed this issue several months ago in a review of the public statement derived from Toxicological Profile that FEMA proposed. I specified at that time that this statement contained no mention of the cancer risk and that should be a public health concern.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue and please feel free to contact me. Failure to speak to the long-term cancer risk regarding formaldehyde exposure irrespective of duration is of particular concern.

Christopher T. De Rosa, M.S., Ph.D.  
Director, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry