Missouri Hazardous Material Incident Surveillance (MHMIS)

VISION

Healthy Missourians and environments through the reduction of hazardous substance incidents.

MISSION:

To decrease the risk to human populations by collecting and analyzing data on releases of hazardous materials that pose a threat to the public's health, ultimately raising awareness of toxic substance incidents and conducting prevention activities.

INTRODUCTION

Established in August 2012 at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MHMIS tracks releases of hazardous materials that have public health consequences. Qualifying events involve a threatened or actual release whose incidence and/or effects are acute and that may prompt acute response. MHMIS contributes to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) National Toxic Substance Incidents Program (NTSIP). MHMIS data is entered on NTSIP's national database and included in analyses by ATSDR.

MHMIS Key Features

- Tracks releases of toxic substances
- Analyzes actual or threatened public health impact
- Contributes to national database
- Conducts event notification and follow-up with agencies and organizations involved in hazmat incident response
- Performs outreach and prevention activities with community partners

Case Example: Fire

Multiple oxygen tanks were present in an apartment when a fire began. Two tanks exploded over the course of the incident. The fire spread to (and ultimately destroyed) the three other units in the building. Five-to-seven hundred bystanders were in danger by standing too close to the burning building; multiple police officers were needed to enforce area access restrictions.

EVENT QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- An uncontrolled or illegal release of any toxic substance
- Acute occurrence, response, and/or onset of symptoms
- Harm or potential threat to human health and well-being

EVENT DATA

Data that are collected include, but are not limited to

- **Event date, time, and duration**
- **Event location**
- **Site description (general land use, nearby industries)**
- **Cause of release**
- **Substance information (name, quantity released, extent of release)**
- **Victim information (role in release, severity of injury, adverse health effects, treatment)**
- **Decontamination, area restriction, evacuation, sheltering procedures**
- **Response activities (public health actions, duration of emergency phase, personnel involved)**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP

MHMIS is looking for partners in

- **Early notification of incidents**
- **Event follow-up with first responders**
- **Public education and outreach**

In particular, it is essential to increase communication with local stakeholders such as law enforcement, fire, hazmat, and local emergency planning committees.

Case Example: Train Derailment

A train derailed for unknown reasons, releasing liquid fertilizer and a powdered herbicide intermediate into the soil and a fishing river. The herbicide intermediate is highly irritating to people. Environmental sampling of the waterway was conducted to monitor pH and the potential for a fish kill.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions, concerns, or opportunities for collaboration, or if you would like more information, please contact:

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