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

[Link to website: dph.georgia.gov/chemical-hazards]