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From: Romano, Eugene
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2006 9:02 AM
To: Weber, Bob; Brekke, Cheryl; Melton, Sidney; Miller, Michael J; Matzen, Martin
Cc: Woodard, Glenn
Subject: FW: Formaldehyde Questions

Good Morning –

Thanks for your cooperation late yesterday to provide information to put this response together for Mary. Please keep me informed of any update to the details listed below or any additional information on this issue. I'll also be sending you a copy of the HQ PIO statement (in a separate message) that was to be used to respond to CNN's inquiry. Please let me know if there is any other information that I can provide to help you on this matter.

Thanks, Gene
 Acting Lead PIO

From: Romano, Eugene
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2006 5:34 PM
To: Hudak, Mary
Cc: Woodard, Glenn; DeCarlo, Leonard D; Brezany, Eugene; Payton, Crystal
Subject: Formaldehyde Questions

1. **How many maintenance calls received?**
 - a. According to Sid Melton, MPOPS, a total of 39 calls reporting fumes suspected to be formaldehyde have been received (19 to the JFO and 20 from the maintenance line).
2. **Have any follow-up calls been made to the disaster victims?**
 - a. None
3. **Where do we stand on establishing a testing contract?**
 - a. According to Mike Miller, Logistics, a scope of work was established and the Contracting Office Biloxi opened the bids on April 6. (I have a copy of the scope of work)
 - b. As of today (4/18) only one (1) bid has been received and the Contracting Office Biloxi has reopened the bidding period until April 28.
 - c. NOTE: Logistics did request that a company working for CH2M Hill (Bonner Analytical Testing Co.) conduct a formaldehyde test on April 6 on the TT unit of Carlton and Dawn Sistrunk, who originally reported the problem to WLOX-TV. (I have a copy of the report.)
4. **What did we do about manufacturer's offer to come down to test?**
 - a. According to Mike Miller, Logistics, the manufacturer never came down or tested.
5. **What standard procedures are being followed by workers to air out or vent units?**
 - a. According to Mike Miller, Logistics, FEMA workers open and vent all units received at the Purvis Staging Area. Units usually are there for approximately three to four days before they are hauled south.
 - b. According to Mike Miller, Logistics, the local contractors (Bechtel and CH2M Hill) have been told to open and vent the units during the set-up period.
 - c. According to Sid, Melton, MHOPS, FEMA workers have been instructed to open and vent units if the smell any odor during the Ready For Occupancy (RFO) inspection. Note:
 - d. NOTE: Units could sit for several days closed up depending on when the disaster victims is ready to complete the lease in process. All units leased include a manufacturer's warning sheet and operator's

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manual, which also repeats the warning. MHOPS has asked the contractor to experiment with "Baking Out" the fumes. The procedure outlined was to identify a family that leaves early and returns late in the day. The plan is to close up the house for most of the day and to ventilate the house about two hours before the family returns. Results are not yet available.

6. **What decision did OGC make concerning which standard levels we are supposed to test for – EPA or OSHA/NIOSH?**

- a. According to Marty Matzen, OGC, he referred the matter to the Office of General Counsel (Edward Broyles and Linda Davis) in Headquarters on April 11, but has not received a ruling as of today.

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