

**Wood-Hooks, Valerie**

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**From:** Collor, Corey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2006 4:20 PM  
**To:** Mcqueeney, Michelle  
**Cc:** 'Atkin, Tom'; Stark, James W  
**Subject:** FW: CDC TeleConference Jun 28th.doc

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**Minutes**

Centers for Disease Control and Environmental Protection Agency Teleconference

Wednesday, June 28, 2006  
Office of Travis Ratcliff  
0900 hrs

**Persons in Attendance:**

**TRO:**

Travis Ratcliff, Acting Director, Baton Rouge TRO  
Corey Collor, Acting Operations Chief  
Louis Simoneaux, Jr., Operations Support Branch Lead  
Errollyn Jackson, Operations Specialist  
Maggie DeBenedetto, FEMA Housing  
Tracy Hanes, FEMA Individual Assistance  
Thomas Medernach, FEMA Safety

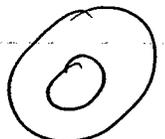
LTJG Kyle Lyons, United States Public Health Service  
Elizabeth Doomes, Environmental Protection Agency

**Via Telephone:**

Agencies for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

LCDR Alan Crawford  
Douglas G. Hanley  
James "Jim" S. Holler  
Steve Jones  
Peter Kowalski  
Richard Nickle  
LCDR Gary Perlman  
George Pettigrew  
CDR Richard Robinson  
Tarah S. Somers  
Scott V. Wright

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)



FEMA-Waxman - 1

CAPT Walter Daley  
Patrick Young

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Sam Coleman, Division Director  
Ronnie Crossland  
Gary Newhart  
Susan Webster

FEMA  
Bill Range  
Ronnie Crossman  
Safety Representatives  
New Orleans Area Field Office

Occupational and Safety Health Administration (OSHA)  
In attendance

**Synopsis:**

The compressed boards of the travel trailers contain formaldehyde. A man, John Doe, in St. Tammany parish died as the possible result of Formaldehyde Sensitivity. Details surrounding the death remain unknown. At the time of this writing it is not known if an autopsy has been performed.

The teleconference was convened to:

- (1) Determine the likelihood that formaldehyde was a causative agent in the death of John Doe due to environmental factors;
- (2) Determine actual health effects verses perceived health effects of formaldehyde usage in consumer products;
- (3) Identify an organization to test the air quality of John Doe's trailer;
- (4) Determine whether or not random sampling of all FEMA trailers is necessary;
- (5) Determine pre-emptive measures against possible negative media onslaught; and
- (6) Determine possible indemnifications for FEMA in case civil restitution is sought.

**Resolutions:**

- (1) Treat John Doe's death as a separate issue from possible occupational and non-occupational trailer issues.
- (2) Determine John Doe's cause of death and pre-mortem physical, social, and mental health and habits.

- (3) The contractor of John Doe's trailer has segregated and sealed it. FEMA Safety is to investigate and sample said trailer. The trailer is to remain in isolation until further notice.
- (4) Request that the Consumer Product Safety Commission vet FEMA trailers against the industry standard.
- (5) Identify an independent, non-governmental agency to conduct tests of indoor air quality and evaluate policies (this includes the measurement of FEMA trailer occupancy readiness against mobile home manufacturer's standards and testing the screening values based upon pre and post exposure scenarios).
- (6) Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals is composing a Fact Sheet on Formaldehyde; advise FEMA Community Relations of its existence as part of its field work (particularly in St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes).

Notes:

- FEMA is allowed to requisition ATSDR to perform the air surveys
- Quality Control Reviews of non-occupational housing have been performed in Biloxi, Mississippi, but not in Louisiana.
- The safety of FEMA travel trailers is measured against OSHA standards
- FEMA Office of General Counsel (OGC) has commissioned FEMA Safety to investigate all deaths which occur in FEMA housing.
- First Month Occupancy Phenomena- the apparent reoccurrence of strong chemical vapors released by the manufactured homes components.

Key Questions:

- What the causative agent's performance threshold is as measured against the Mobile Home Manufacturer's Association's requisites?
- What's the appropriate standard (formaldehyde has seven formal standards)?
- What are the ages of the homes which have been distributed? Is the age a significant factor?
- Who can commit the proper federal agency for conduction of air surveys?

Consumer Advisories:

- 65-80% of all consumer products in the United States contain formaldehyde.
- In the event the occupant smells formaldehyde they should open windows and doors to ensure maximum ventilation of the manufactured dwelling.
- Manufactured Homes must be out-gassed at least two weeks prior to habitation