



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 15, 2008**

**CONTACT: CDC Division of Media Relations**  
**770-488-0700**

### **FEDERAL AGENCY INVITES RESIDENTS TO PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSIONS** *CDC to Discuss Results of Formaldehyde Level Tests in Trailers*

ATLANTA- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will host seven public availability sessions in Louisiana to explain the preliminary findings from testing for formaldehyde levels in occupied travel trailers, park models, and mobile homes supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for emergency housing in the Gulf Coast Region.

Residents of FEMA-supplied units and concerned individuals are invited to attend a session that is convenient for them. The sessions will begin with 30-minute opening presentation by a CDC scientist. Following the presentation, CDC scientists and members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps will be available to speak one-on-one with residents about health concerns related to living in the trailers. FEMA representatives will also be available to discuss housing options.

Sessions are scheduled in Baker, Chalmette, Jefferson, Lake Charles and New Orleans:

Mon, Feb 25, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Baker Municipal Center  
3325 Groom Road  
Baker, LA 70714

Tue, Feb 26, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church  
2300 Crowder Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70127

Tue, Feb 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

St. Anna's Episcopal Church  
1313 Esplanade Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70116

Wed, Feb 27, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Nunez Community College Auditorium  
3700 Fenelon Street  
Chalmette, LA 70043

Wed, Feb 27, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Joseph S. Yenni Government Building  
1221 Elmwood Park Blvd  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers  
Jefferson, LA 70123

Thu, Feb 28, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Lake Charles Civic Center  
Contraband Room  
900 Lakeshore Drive  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Thu, Feb 28, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Lake Charles Civic Center  
Contraband Room  
900 Lakeshore Drive  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

On February 14, CDC released preliminary results of a scientifically established random sample of 519 travel trailers and mobile homes tested between Dec. 21, 2007 and Jan. 23, 2008 showed average levels of formaldehyde in all units of about 77 parts per billion (ppb). Long-term exposure to levels in this range can be linked to an increased risk of cancer, and as levels rise above this range, there can also be a risk of respiratory illness. These levels are higher than expected in indoor air, where levels are commonly in the range of 10-20 ppb. Levels measured ranged from 3 ppb to 590 ppb.

The testing came as a result of a request from FEMA for assistance in answering questions related to indoor air quality and health in order to answer concerns raised by residents and community members.

Formaldehyde is a colorless gas that is naturally produced in the human body in small amounts, and is a common chemical in the environment. Long-term exposure to high levels of formaldehyde can be linked to an increased risk of cancer and respiratory illness.

Community members who have questions about the upcoming public availability sessions may contact CDC Health Communication Specialist La Freta Dalton at 770-488-0711 or call CDC's toll-free health information hotline at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

CDC, a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, promotes health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

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**A one-hour media availability session will immediately precede each public availability session. Members of the news media can request an interview by calling CDC Media Relations at 404-639-3286.**