

Useful Resources for Public Health Units

TOXINZ database

TOXINZ is an internet accessible poisons information database containing recommendations on the management of poisoning from over 190,000 listed chemical products, pharmaceuticals, plants and hazardous creatures. This resource is reviewed and added to accommodate more information. The information is referenced and updated regularly. An annual subscription is required to access the database, some PHUs have current subscriptions.

<http://www.toxinz.com>

National Poisons Centre: 0800 POISON (0800 764 766)

The National Poisons Centre (NPC) has a free 24-hour service providing information on the health effects of chemicals, drugs, poisonous plants, poisonous insects and marine animals. The telephone number is 0800 POISON (0800 764 766) (24 hours). TOXINZ is the NPC's internet database.

The main role of the National Poisons Centre is to provide advice to members of the public and health care professionals about acute poisoning situations. This can involve medicines, chemicals, hazardous creatures (e.g. spiders, snakes, jellyfish), or plants and fungi.

The permanent information specialist staff have expertise in toxicology, medical toxicology, chemistry and pharmacy. The NPC maintains TOXINZ, in addition to a comprehensive toxicology library and has access to a range of other databases and information sources, both nationally and internationally.

<http://www.poisons.co.nz/>

CHEMFIND

The CHEMFIND database system is large collection of safety datasheets and other resources owned by Responsible Care NZ (formerly the NZ Chemical Industry Council). It is a website system that contains chemical data which is regularly updated giving users 24 hour access to up-to-date chemical information on hazards identification, composition on ingredients, first aid measures, chemical spills, etc.

The Ministry of Health has purchased CHEMFIND licences for each public health unit's office. Responsible Care NZ will also provide technical assistance on a 24 hour, days a week by phoning 0800 CHEMCALL [243 622] if required.

Environmental Protection Agency resources

Chemical Classification and Information Database

The Chemical Classification and Information Database (CCID) details the chemicals classified in accordance with the Hazardous Substance and New Organisms (HSNO) regulations.

The CCID provides chemical identification information, hazard classifications and classification data.

<http://www.epa.govt.nz/search-databases/Pages/HSNO-CCID.aspx>

Database of controls for approved hazardous substances

This database details the controls on approved hazardous substances. Controls for each approval can be accessed using the approval number or substance name. Changes made by reassessment or amendment processes are also included.

<http://www.epa.govt.nz/search-databases/Pages/controls-search.aspx>

Other EPA databases are available at <http://www.epa.govt.nz/search-databases/Pages/default.aspx> eg. test certifiers, equipment registers.

International sources – Free access

TOXNET

Online search of multiple databases on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, environmental health, and toxic releases provided by the United States National Library of Medicine.

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/>

International Program on Chemical Safety

This site provides free access to internationally peer reviewed information on chemicals commonly used throughout the world, which may also occur as contaminants in the environment and food. It consolidates information from a number of intergovernmental organizations whose goal it is to assist in the sound management of chemicals. It is indexed by chemical

name, some synonyms and CAS numbers. International Chemical Safety Cards, Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) Monographs, UK Poisons Information and other content is available.

<http://www.inchem.org/>

NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards

The Centre for Disease Control's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Hygiene (NIOSH) Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards is intended as a source of general industrial hygiene information on several hundred chemicals/classes for workers, employers, and occupational health professionals. The pocket guide does not contain an analysis of all pertinent data, rather it presents key information and data in abbreviated or tabular form for chemicals or substance groupings (e.g. cyanides, fluorides, manganese compounds) that are found in the work environment. The information found in the NPG should help users recognize and control occupational chemical hazards. It is searchable by chemical name, some synonyms and trade names, and CAS numbers.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/>

ATSDR Toxicological profiles

Information about contaminants found at hazardous waste sites, from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/index.asp>

International sources – require subscription

Chemwatch Product names: (M)SDS Repository, ChemGoldIII, ChemWatcher

Searchable database of industry provided material safety datasheets, and some information provided by independent experts. Chemwatch maintains regulatory information regarding the HSNO Act. This database best searched using the chemical name of the substance involved. Some PHUs are current subscribers of this database.

<http://www.chemwatch.net/>

TOMES

The TOMES® System provides medical and hazard data for response to exposure and accidents in chemical handling. The TOMES System provides treatment guidelines for acute chemical exposures, evacuation procedures, chemical disposal information.

http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/healthcare/healthcare_products/a-z/tomes_system/

Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Abstracts (CAB Abstracts)

A comprehensive database of applied life sciences resources; it includes agriculture, environment, veterinary sciences, applied economics, food science and nutrition.

<http://www.cabi.org/default.aspx?site=170&page=1016&pid=125>

Chemical Abstracts Search (CAS-ONLINE)

Access to databases covering science, engineering, technology, patents and business information. CAS products are fee-based and generally require you to set up an account.

<http://www.cas.org/index>

Ministry of Health Guidelines

Hazardous Substance Injuries

Investigation and Surveillance of Poisoning and Hazardous-substance Injuries (2009)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/investigation-and-surveillance-poisonings-and-hazardous-substances-injuries>

Lead

The Environmental Case Management of Lead-exposed Persons: Guidelines for Public Health Units: (2012)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/environmental-case-management-lead-exposed-persons>

Agrichemical Spraydrift

The Investigation and Surveillance of Agrichemical Spraydrift Incidents: Guidelines for Public Health Units (2007)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/investigation-and-surveillance-agrichemical-spraydrift-incidents>

Asbestos

The Management of Asbestos in the Non-occupational Environment: Guidelines for Public Health Units (2007)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/management-asbestos-non-occupational-environment>

Response to Major Fires

Guidelines for Public Health Units: Response to Major Fires (2011)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/response-major-fires-guideline-public-health-units>

Methamphetamine residues

Guidelines for the Remediation of Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory Sites (2010)

(includes a section on health effects)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/guidelines-remediation-clandestine-methamphetamine-laboratory-sites>

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Safe Management of PCBs Code of Practice (2008)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/safe-management-pcbs-code-practice>

Dioxins

Dioxins Fact Sheet (2012)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/dioxins/dioxins-factsheet>

Patient information and resources

From Health Ed

Arsenic

<http://www.health.govt.nz/yourhealth-topics/environmental-health/arsenic-and-health>

Poisons around the home

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/poisons-around-home>

Lead (2007)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/lead-and-lead-poisoning>

Child Resistant Packaging (2002)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/child-resistant-packaging>

Asbestos (2007)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/all-about-asbestos>

Dioxin (2008)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/dioxin-and-health>

Agrichemical Spraydrift (1999 revised 2004)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/agrichemical-spraydrift>

Cleaning up mercury spills in your house (Ministry of Health website, no pdf)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/cleaning-mercury-spills-your-house>

Safer and healthier gardening (including reducing the risks from chemicals)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/safer-and-healthier-gardening>

From National Poisons Centre website

The information sheets most relevant to hazardous substances notifications are included here. Others including poisonous plants and mushrooms and child resistant packaging are available on the NPC website

(<http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?c=20>).

Alcohol-based Hand Sanitisers - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=42&c=20>

BZP and other Piperazine-Based Party Drugs - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=21&c=20>

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=40&c=20>

Dishwasher Powders - A Corrosive Poison We Use Every Day - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=26&c=20>

Household Cleaners - A Poison Common in Every Home - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=25&c=20>

Solvent abuse: sniffing, huffing, bagging. Info for parents/caregivers - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=9>

Potentially Dangerous Alternative Headlice Treatments - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=5&c=20>

From Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS)

Lead – for operators of shooting ranges

http://www.arphs.govt.nz/Portals/0/Health%20Information/HealthyEnvironments/HasardousSubstances/Lead%20for%20shooters/Health%20advice%20and%20recommendations-Operators_Version%2008%2011%2011.pdf

Lead – for indoor shooters

http://www.arphs.govt.nz/Portals/0/Health%20Information/HealthyEnvironments/HasardousSubstances/Lead%20for%20shooters/Fact%20Sheet-Shooters_Version%2008%2011%2011.pdf