

Enhancing Public Health Management of Chemical Incidents through Collaboration with Poison Centres

Case Studies Based Virtual Symposium



Dates: February 6th, 13th and 20th 2025

Location: *Online/Virtual (no cost)*

Time: 14:00 to 18:00 UTC (9:00-13:00 Washington D.C.; 23:00 to 03:00 Tokyo)



A robust public health management of chemical incidents comprises surveillance, mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Poison centre capabilities can assist and support public health entities in these activities.



This free symposium brings together representatives of poison centres and public health entities to present their experiences in responding to a chemical incident through case studies. These presentations will place the relationship between poison centre and public health entities at the heart of the discussions, exploring the importance of their collaboration, as well as gaps and opportunities, in chemical incident management. It will culminate in a town hall discussion on fortifying their collaboration.



Target Audience

This symposium will be of interest to poisons centre specialists, public health practitioners, civil protection and law enforcement officers, emergency medical responders, emergency planners, environmental and behavioural scientists, healthcare professionals, laboratory personnel, policy makers, and others involved in managing chemical incidents of public health concern.

[Register HERE \(no cost\)](#)

Organizer: Global Health Security Initiative - Chemical Events Working Group

For more information, please contact toxicovigilance@hc-sc.gc.ca



PROGRAMME

Day # 1: February 6th, 2025 (9 am Washington D.C. time UTC-5)

Welcoming Remarks (30 mins)

Symposium organizer: (GHSI – CEWG)

- Assistant Deputy Minister Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch (ADM HECSB) of Health Canada
- The Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) and the Chemical Events Working Group (CEWG) chair

Keynote Opening Remarks

- ***Poison Centres and Public Health*** : Lesley J Onyon, Head of Chemical Safety and Health Unit, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, ***World Health Organization***, Geneva, Switzerland

Scene Setting & Logistics (15 minutes)

Symposium Objectives

- To explore poison centres' and public health entities' experiences, capabilities/capacities, and lessons learned from chemical incident responses.
- To identify values of collaboration between poison centres and public health entities in emergency management (i.e., preparedness, vigilance, response, recovery, mitigation) of chemical incidents.
- To share and discuss best practices and challenges to collaboration.

Symposium virtual host (NCCEH)

- National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH)



DAY 1 (*continued*):

Facilitator: Robie Kamanyire, Deputy Director for Chemicals, Toxicology and Environmental Hazards, UK Health Security Agency, UK & GHSI-CEWG member

Purpose

To present poison centres' and public health entities' (e.g., health authorities, emergency management agencies) experiences capabilities/capacities, and lessons learned from chemical incident responses

Presentations of 3 case studies (40 mins each)

1. Case Study #1: Harnessing The Power of Collaboration in the Ammonia Mass Casualty Incident 2021 During the Covid 19 Pandemic: the UP NPMCC and PGH Experience

Irma Makalinao, Professor and Coordinator, CBRN Health Security Initiatives, University of Philippines Manila

April Llaneta, Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Philippines-Philippine General Hospital

2. Case Study #2: Collaboration Between the Public Health Emergency Operation Center and the Poison Control Section in Oman: An Example from EMRO

Ziad Kazzi, Professor of Emergency Medicine/Medical Toxicology, Emory University, Atlanta, USA – Adjunct Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, Executive Co-Director and Past President, Middle East and North Africa Clinical Toxicology Association

Badria Alhatali, Director, Poison Control Section, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, National Center for Disease Control, Ministry of Health, Oman, Emergency Medicine and Toxicology Consultant, Middle East and North Africa Clinical Toxicology Association, President

Mohammed bin Saif Al Busafi, Director, Emergency Management Center Oman Ministry of Health, Muscat



DAY 1 (continued):

3. Case Study #3: Aconitine Outbreak Events (2022) - Management and Lessons Learned from Canada.

Emily Austin, Medical Director, Ontario Poison Centre

David McVea, MD, Public Health Physician, Environmental Health, British Columbia Centre for Disease Control / Drug and Poison Information Centre

JinHee Kim, MD, Physician Lead, Environmental and Occupational Health, Public Health Ontario

Richard Wootton, Team Leader within the Chemical Emergency Management and Toxicovigilance Division, Health Canada

There will be one scheduled break throughout the session.

Closing Remarks for Day 1 (10 minutes)



Day # 2: February 13th, 2025 (9 am Washington D.C. time UTC-5)

Welcome (10 mins)

Purpose

To present poison centres' and public health entities' (e.g., health authorities, emergency management agencies) experiences capabilities/capacities, and lessons learned from chemical incident responses

Presentations of 3 case studies (40 min each)

4. **Case Study #4: Poison Center-Public Health Collaborative in Thailand: Methanol Incident**

Winai Wananukul, Professor of Medicine, Ramathibodi Poison Center, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University Thailand

Pairoj Surattanawanich, Deputy Director General of the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Health, Thailand

5. **Case Study #5: Shedding light on DNP poisoning in the UK: progress and challenges encountered**

Raquel Duarte-Davidson, Head, Chemicals and Environmental Effects Department and Commissioner of the UK National Poisons Information Service

Ruben Thanacoody, Director, Newcastle Unit of National Poisons Information Service (NPIS)

6. **Case Study #6: Mathiesen Molypac Major Chemical Incident**

Juan Carlos Rios Bustamante, PhD, MSc, Toxicologist - Executive Director of the Poison Center and the Chemical Emergency Center (CITUC)

Guido Martinez Reyes, Health Professional, Ministry of Health of Chile



DAY 2 (continued):

7. **Case Study #7: Coagulopathy Associated with Brodifacoum Poisoning in Florida Residents—December 2021**

Alvin Bronstein, MD, President, America's Poison Centers, Chair, NPDS Development Group, Assistant Medical Director, Louisiana Poison Center

Justin Arnold, Medical Director, Florida Poison Information Center Tampa

Prakash Mulay, Chemical Surveillance Epidemiologist, Florida Department of Health

8. **Case Study #8: Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, Oregon, 2024: Poison Center**

Rob Hendrickson, Professor and Emergency Medicine Toxicology Fellowship Director, Department of Emergency Medicine, Medical Director, Oregon Poison Center

Terran Gilbreath, MPH, Applied Epidemiology Fellow, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

There will be one scheduled break throughout the session.

Closing Remarks for Day 2 (10 minutes)



Day # 3: February 20th, 2025 (9 am Washington D.C. time UTC-5)

Facilitated speakers-audience roundtable discussions

Purpose of Day 3 Townhall Discussions

- To engage participants in live discussions with panel of speakers
- To understand the values of collaboration between poison centres and public health entities in emergency management (i.e., preparedness, vigilance, response, recovery, mitigation) of chemical incidents
- To engage leaders from Poison Centres and Public Health Entities (e.g., health authorities, emergency management entities) to
 - Highlight values of collaboration between Poison Centres and Public Health Entities in emergency management of chemical incidents
 - Enable discussions on best practices and challenges to collaboration, and
 - Identify opportunities for guidance/a roadmap to foster/harden collaboration between poison centres and public health entities

Presentation: OECD Guiding Principles: Public Health Authorities and Poison Centres within Chemical Accident Prevention Preparedness and Response

Mark Hailwood, Vice-Chair OECD Working Party on Chemical Accidents

Summary, Recommendations and Best Practices of Case Studies (10 min each) & Live Q&A (30 min sessions)

Each case study presentation from the previous two sessions will be summarized by the speakers. This will be followed by a live questions and answers session, allowing participants to ask questions and engage directly with the presenters to gain deeper insights.

Closing Remarks (15 min)

Symposium organizer: (GHSI – CEWG)

- The Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) and the Chemical Events Working Group (CEWG)

Keynote Closing Remarks

- **Poison Centres and Public Health** : Lesley J Onyon, Head of Chemical Safety and Health Unit, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, **World Health Organization**, Geneva, Switzerland

Please note that all session times are subject to change and will be finalized upon release of the full program.

