

# DHHS - Division of Public Health

**O**ccupational &  
**E**nvironmental  
**E**pidemiology  
**B**ranch

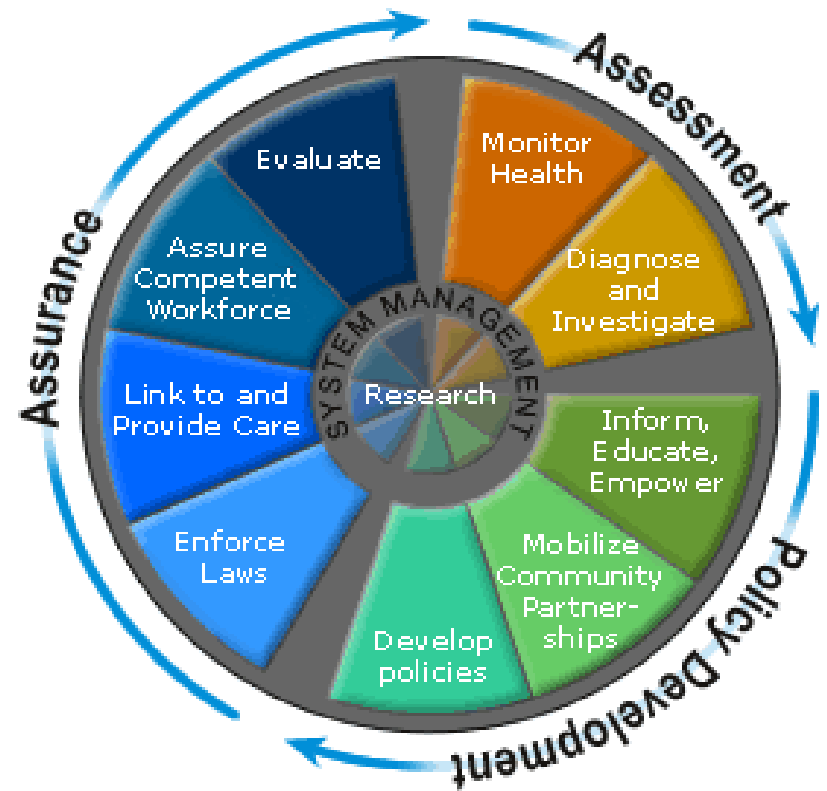
# Mission of the OEEB



- ⌘ Reduce occupational and environmental injuries and illnesses
- ⌘ Develop and maintain occupational and environmental surveillance
- ⌘ Conduct risk assessments and risk communication
- ⌘ Evaluate biological, chemical, and physical hazards, including toxicological evaluations of air, water and soil contaminants
- ⌘ Develop preparedness and response expertise for large scale chemical or radiological events

# Who Works at OEEB?

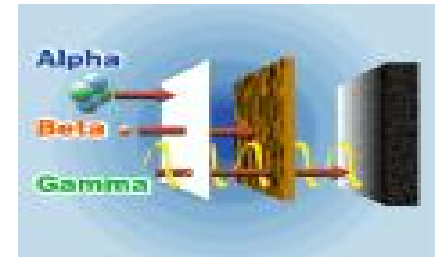
- ☒ Nurses
- ☒ Industrial Hygienists
- ☒ Toxicologists
- ☒ Physicians
- ☒ Medical Epidemiologists
- ☒ Public Health Epidemiologists
- ☒ Industrial Hygiene Technicians
- ☒ Administrative Staff



*Essential Public Health Services*

# Exposures & Epidemiology

- ⌘ Polluted Air/Water
- ⌘ Excessive Noise
- ⌘ Food Contaminants
- ⌘ Medical X-Rays/Drugs
- ⌘ Working conditions
- ⌘ Toxic substances
- ⌘ Terrorism
- ⌘ Surveillance
- ⌘ IAQ/Mold
- ⌘ Exposure/Risk Assessment
- ⌘ Health Assessment
- ⌘ Education/Prevention
- ⌘ Public Information
- ⌘ Applied Research



# What OEEB “Brings to the Table”



- ⌘ Technical Consult & Support
- ⌘ Regulatory Guidelines
- ⌘ Educational Outreach
- ⌘ Information Resource
- ⌘ Human/Physical Resources
- ⌘ Epidemiological Surveillance
- ⌘ Investigation Assistance
- ⌘ Needs Assessment Assistance
- ⌘ Toxicological Expertise
- ⌘ Contaminant ID
- ⌘ Chemical Properties
- ⌘ Routes of Exposure
- ⌘ High/Low Dose Symptoms
- ⌘ Containment Assistance
- ⌘ Public Information
- ⌘ Hazard Prevention & Mitigation

# Public Health Disaster Preparedness & Response

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# How Will OEEB Respond?



⌘ Pre-Event – provide training

⌘ Provide web based information

# During and Post Event



- ⌘ Provide technical support and assistance
- ⌘ Conduct risk assessments, risk communication, medical consultation;
- ⌘ Evaluate biological, chemical and physical hazards in air, water and soil;
- ⌘ Recommend PPE and decontamination techniques;
- ⌘ Perform occupational/environmental epidemiological surveillance and investigations; and
- ⌘ Develop prevention/mitigation strategies and public information/education as necessary



(THE NEWS AND OBSERVER/AP PHOTO)

# During Chemical Fire



- ⌘ At Public Health Command Center (MD, IH, Toxicologist)
- ⌘ Reviewed data from similar fire
  - ☑ Post event exposure
  - ☑ Potential real time exposures
- ⌘ In contact with LHD & on-site DPH rep

# Post Event



- ⌘ Ready to answer questions
- ⌘ Indoor air evaluations
- ⌘ Assist other agencies with exposure data assessment



# Wildfires & Stump Dump Fires



⌘ Fires burning near occupied buildings

☑ Nursing homes

☑ Hospitals

⌘ Unable to put fires out

⌘ Fires burning for days or weeks

⌘ Concern for CO and/or particulates

# Wildfires & Stump Dump Fires

## ⌘ Advise LHD and/or local fire teams

- ☑ Public Health warnings

- ☑ Hazardous exposure levels

- ☑ Conference calls

- ☑ Recommend exposure assessment methods

  - ☒ Fire personnel

  - ☒ Home means

- ☑ Avoidance guidance

Tue 09:39 AM



South Hill

RDU

Sanford

Wilmington





# Pan Flu/Bird Planning



- ⌘ Meeting with Agriculture & Growers
- ⌘ Reviewing Bird flu plans – worker protection
- ⌘ Training

# Issues PH Must Resolve



- ⌘ Outreach to the community & personal contact.
- ⌘ Citizens want answers to questions now even if there is no or little data available.
- ⌘ Is it safe to return?
- ⌘ They will want samples taken.
- ⌘ Who will they trust?
- ⌘ What evaluation will be performed?

# Contact Information



<http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/oeo/index.htm>

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For Physicians, Nurses, Toxicologists,  
Epidemiologists

Phone (919) 707-5900 Fax (919) 870-4810

For Asbestos, Lead, IAQ, Mold, Schools,  
Industrial Hygiene Issues

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