



News Release

For Immediate Release

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FORMALDEHYDE IS BIODEGRADABLE, QUICKLY BROKEN DOWN IN THE AIR BY SUNLIGHT OR BY BACTERIA IN SOIL OR WATER

WASHINGTON (January 29, 2014) – *The Formaldehyde Panel of the American Chemistry Council has issued the following statement in response to media reports that West Virginians may be breathing formaldehyde following the recent incident in the state:*

“Formaldehyde is a ubiquitous, naturally occurring substance produced by every living organism. Studies show that formaldehyde is readily biodegradable and does not accumulate in either the environment or in people. In the environment, formaldehyde is quickly broken down in the air by sunlight or by bacteria in soil or water.”¹

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<http://www.americanchemistry.com>

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$770 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for twelve percent of all U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

¹ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. “Toxicological Profile for Formaldehyde.” Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, 1999, p. 296.

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp111.pdf>

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