



**GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF
THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH
Tel: (340) 774-0117
Fax: (340) 777-4001

1303 HOSPITAL GROUND
SUITE 10
CHARLOTTE AMALIE
ST. THOMAS, U.S.V.I. 00802-6722

April 1, 2015

Patrick Breysse, PhD, CIH
Director
CDC NCEH/ATSDR
National Center for Environmental Health and
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Chamblee, OCCO
Atlanta, GA 30341

Re: Request Epi-Aid assistance from Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the aftermath of the methyl bromide release at Sirenusa Condominium Resort, Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI)

Dear Dr. Breysse:

I request the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's and Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (ATSDR/CDC) assistance in the form of an Assessment of Chemical Exposures Epi-Aid to perform an epidemiologic assessment on the release of methyl bromide at the Sirenusa Condominium Resort. During this incident, a toxic substance was released causing acute human health effects. We would like ATSDR/CDC to coordinate activities with the Department of Health. We are requesting ATSDR/CDC:

- Contact residents of the condo complex who stayed in any of the fumigated units either during or after the application of methyl bromide;
- Contact condo complex employees who may have worked in any fumigated units either during or after the application of methyl bromide;
- Contact emergency responders, law enforcement, or other people who may have entered treated units;
- Should provide these parties with situational awareness of the potential symptoms that may have presented as a result of exposure to methyl bromide;
- In questioning potentially affected persons, ascertain if they have experienced any health effects consistent with methyl bromide exposure during the time periods during and after the fumigation activities;

- Determine if they have received treatment from a physician for symptoms consistent with methyl bromide exposure, or a documented health effect from an actual methyl bromide exposure; and
- Other actions necessary to complete the assessment effort.

It is possible this assessment may extend to other areas throughout the Virgin Islands where methyl bromide may have been applied in a residential setting.

Sincerely,

Acting Commissioner



Duane Howell, MSHS, RRT, AE-C
U.S. Virgin Islands DOH Acting Commissioner

Date: 1 April 15

DH/eme