

## 10 Steps to making an ATSDR

# TOXPROFILE

To help keep people healthy and safe, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR):

- Gathers as much information as possible about chemicals that might be dangerous
- Publishes this information as Toxicological Profiles, or ToxProfiles™



### ?

#### What are ToxProfiles?

- ToxProfiles give information on how hazardous (poisonous) substances may affect health.
- Each ToxProfile includes a Public Health Statement, a summary chapter that outlines the ToxProfile's information on hazardous substances and its potential health effects. A shorter, more reader-friendly version of the profile, known as a ToxFAQs, is also available.
- Many toxicologists (scientists who study harmful chemicals) rely on ToxProfiles to do their work.

### 1

#### Prioritize toxic substances.

We develop the **Substance Priority List (SPL)** which lists chemicals found at hazardous waste sites on the National Priorities List (NPL).

- Hazardous waste sites are properties where toxic (harmful) substances have been left behind.
- The NPL is a list of important hazardous waste sites that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is cleaning up.

The substances on the SPL are prioritized based on:

- How toxic they are
- How often they have been found at NPL sites
- How likely people have been exposed

### 2

#### Select ToxProfiles.

We select ToxProfiles based on:

- The SPL
- New scientific research
- If individuals, organizations, or agencies have requested a ToxProfile

#### Anyone can suggest a ToxProfile.

**Every year, we request nominations for profiles.**

Members of the public, government agencies, or private organizations can tell us which chemicals they are worried about.

### 3

#### Conduct a comprehensive literature review.

We gather and review all the published scientific research available to form a complete picture of each substance. Then, we create a draft ToxProfile.

### 4

#### Develop Health Guidance Values (HGVs).

Our scientists review the draft ToxProfile and decide on **Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs)** for that substance.

- MRLs estimate how much of a certain kind of exposure (contact) to a hazardous substance will likely **not** make people sick (like by breathing toxic fumes or drinking contaminated water).
- MRLs can help public health professionals know who's at risk of getting sick in a certain location.

### 5

#### Perform comprehensive internal and external review of the profile.

- Other government agencies (inter-agency review)
- Experts within CDC/ATSDR

### 6

#### Conduct independent peer review.

- Non-government independent experts review the profile.
- Profiles are revised (as needed) based on peer review comments.
- Peer review comments are posted on the web.

### 7

#### We post a draft of the ToxProfile and invite comment on it at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

- The public comment period is 90 days.
- We announce the release of the draft for public comment profile via Federal Register announcement and on our website.

### 8

#### Review and respond to public comments.

- We summarize all comments and concerns received during the public comment period and revise the profile as needed.
- Comments are available for viewing on [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).
- Our response to public comments is available from the public docket.

### 9

#### Complete additional intra-agency review, peer review, and clearance.

#### Did you know?

- Over the past 20 years, ATSDR has developed more than 300 ToxProfiles.
- ToxProfiles are recognized nationally and internationally as credible sources of information for public health professionals.
- We review high-priority ToxProfiles each year, as well as new substances, and choose several to update or create.

### 10

#### After final review and agency clearance, we post the final ToxProfile online.

- We announce on [our website](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov) that a new ToxProfile is available.
- We let people know about it via a Federal Register Notice.
- All the profiles are free for the public to access and use at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/index.html>.