

# Articles of Concern: Information from the WHO Chemical Incident Alert and Response System

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Articles/Products,*

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## Introduction

- **Chemical Incidents and Emergencies**
  - **Alert and Response**
  - **Capacity building**
  - **Networks**
  
- **Framework for action**
  - **WHO Constitution and WHA Resolutions**
  - **International Health Regulations (2005)**
  - **SAICM (chemical safety)**
  - **Humanitarian work (IASC)**



## International Health Regulations (2005)

- ❑ International legal instrument designed to help protect all States from international spread of disease, including public health risks and public health emergencies.
- ❑ Wide coverage:
  - Events of biological, chemical, radionuclear origin; or
  - Events transmitted by persons, goods, vectors, or the environment.



## Some obligations and responsibilities (IHR 2005)

- ❑ National IHR Focal Point and WHO Contact Points.
- ❑ Capacities to detect, assess, and respond rapidly to public health events of international concern.
- ❑ Provide routine facilities, services, inspections and control activities at international points of entries.
- ❑ WHO to review information from other sources than notification and consultations, assess and communicate events.



## Chemical Incidents Alert and Response

- Review of incident information
  - Webcrawler tools
  - Received from within WHO
  - Received from external WHO partners
- Assessment and verification
- Information sharing and alert
- Response



Public Health Agency of Canada / Agence de santé publique du Canada

Canada

RÉSEAU  
MONDIAL  
D'INFORMATION  
EN  
SANTÉ  
PUBLIQUE

GLOBAL  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
INTELLIGENCE  
NETWORK

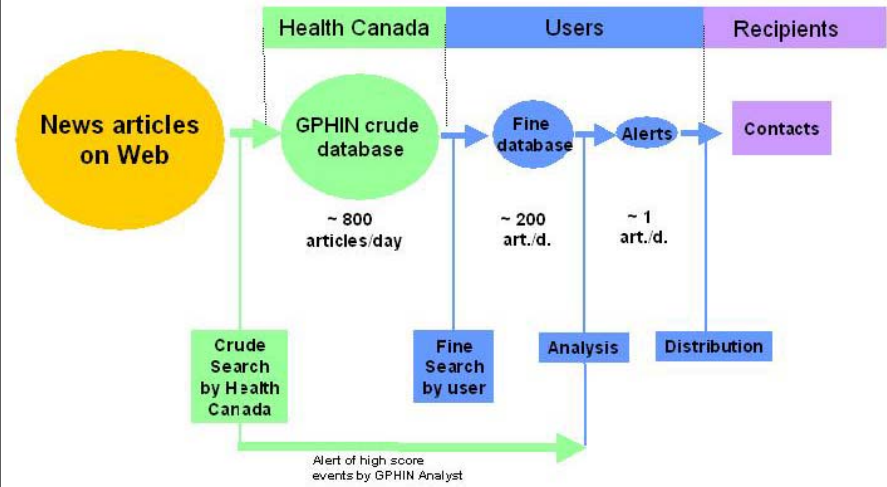
English  default language Enter

GPIN 简体中文 繁體中文 About GPHIN RMISP en bref درباره چگونگی Sobre o sistema GPHIN O CCFM03 Acerca de la RIMSP

EMPOWERED BY STEIR

Internet

# GPHIN



World Health Organization

Public Health Agency of Canada / Agence de santé publique du Canada

Language: English User: Haefliger, Pascal

Global Public Health Intelligence Network

Home Article List Logout My Profile Bulletins Health Ministries Links Contact Us Help

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Filters

Query: All - 48hrs

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2009-02-02 07:40 GMT	Vendee: 5 000 ducks brought(shot) down by precaution	Presse Océan	FR	26	✗	HBAEOP
2009-02-02 07:40 GMT	Eight dead in Solomon Islands floods	Reuters News	EN	54	✓	HNBACOP
2009-02-02 07:40 GMT	Alert issued after Japanese volcano erupts	The Irish Examiner	EN	64	✓	NEC
2009-02-02 07:40 GMT	Japan volcano 'ready to erupt'	The Daily Telegraph	EN	53	✓	HAEO
2009-02-02 07:21 GMT	(International) in this, the Lanka Northeast one home hospital is bombarded 29 person casualties	新華社中文新聞 (繁體)	ZH	40	✗	NBECOP
2009-02-02 07:21 GMT	(International) the Sri Lanka Northeast one home hospital is bombarded 29 people casualties	新華社中文新聞 (簡體)	ZH	64	✗	NBECOP
2009-02-02 07:21 GMT	Fundamental data of national tripod cauldron biotechnology-	台灣經濟新報 - 台灣 (簡體)	ZH	53	✗	HNAECOP
2009-02-02 07:21 GMT	The friend closes the fundamental biochemistry science and technology- - data	台灣經濟新報 - 台灣 (簡體)	ZH	50	✗	HNAECOP
2009-02-02 07:21 GMT	Fundamental Taiwan Kobe batteries- - data	台灣經濟新報 - 台灣 (簡體)	ZH	53	✗	HNAECOP
2009-02-02 07:21 GMT	Tokyo has got in a cloud of volcanic ashes	Poc6amr	RU	40	✗	NEP
2009-02-02 07:20 GMT	U.S. News: Regulators Delay New Rules for Testing Lead in Toys	The Wall Street Journal	EN	40	✓	HNBACOP
2009-02-02 07:20 GMT	City street cordoned off in chemical leak alert	The Press and Journal	EN	40	✓	NECP
2009-02-02 07:20 GMT	Middle new comment: Hope tragedy not trading again	中國新聞社 (簡體)	ZH	35	✗	HNBECOP
2009-02-02 07:20 GMT	Is that the female adoptive Liu De Hua Bronx cheer labor treasures an animal to ask for trouble?	亞洲新聞台 (簡體)	ZH	80	✗	P
2009-02-02 07:20 GMT	Popcorn sold in Japan linked to salmonella outbreak in U.S.	Mainichi Daily News	EN	37	✓	HNBACOP
2009-02-02 07:00 GMT	Erect the great fundamental biochemistry science and technology- - data	台灣經濟新報 - 台灣 (簡體)	ZH	48	✗	HNBACOP
2009-02-02 07:00 GMT	Fundamental Asia generator science and technology- - data	台灣經濟新報 - 台灣 (簡體)	ZH	40	✗	HNBACOP
2009-02-02 07:00 GMT	Sinochem the fundamental data composing unprocessed skill-	台灣經濟新報 - 台灣 (簡體)	ZH	35	✗	HNBACOP

## Example of GPHIN report (edited)

### Product recalls: Metal water bottles

News Provider: Factiva  
Publication Language: English  
Source: Associated Press Newswires  
Received Date: 2008-03-25 16:57 GMT  
Publication Date: 2008-03-25 16:05 GMT  
Regions: Americas  
WHO Region: AMRO  
Place Name: United States

The following recalls have been announced:

--About 18,000 Backyard and Beyond metal water bottles, manufactured in China and distributed by Downeast Concepts Inc., because surface paints contain high levels of lead, which is toxic if ingested by children. No injuries have been reported. The water bottles were sold at gift, convenience, mass merchandise and drug stores around the country, as well as other major retailers, between February 2006 and February 2008. Details: by phone at 800-343-2424; by Web at



## GPHIN reports related to articles

Article Category	Number of reports related to articles by year			
	2005	2006	2007	2008
Toys	1	2	14	9
Jewellery and decoration items	-	-	7	5
Textiles	1	-	2	5
Others	1	2	11	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>



## Summary of chemical events involving articles

Type of Article	Problem Description
Toys, including sunglasses, Teletubbies, robots, horse toys, mini hockey stick, charms, teddy bears, puppet theatres, Bindeez Beads, other toys, baby pacifiers and paper money.	Mostly high levels of lead were detected in toys. Few stories report about mercury, cadmium, arsenic, phthalates, formaldehyde and 1,4-butanediol in these products.
Jewellery and decoration items, including bracelets, metal necklaces, key chains and Easter items.	All stories mention high levels of lead.
Textiles, including T-shirts, uniforms, underwear and clothing not further specified	Clothing containing dyes, formaldehyde, and methyl chloride as well as nonylphenoethoxylate that pollute water systems; formaldehyde in blankets
Others, including children's products (e.g. baby bottles, drinking cups, food cans, lunch boxes, toilet seats), water bottles, writing pens, sleeping bags, magnets, grills as well as house trailers, shoes, furniture, cigarettes, shoes, lipsticks.	Most of the items reported contain lead; baby bottles and food cans containing bisphenol A ; a leather sofa contained fungicides causing allergic reactions; house trailers contained formaldehyde; shoes contained pesticides; cigarettes containing mercury; a freezer was leaking chemicals.



## GPHIN and articles

- Multi-lingual
- Real-time monitoring
- Retrospective search
- Relatively few stories
- Development
  - Website to be visited
  - Crude and fine search
- One of many tools (e.g. MediSys)



## Conclusions

- ❑ On a daily basis, WHO reviews health intelligence related to chemical incidents and emergencies.
- ❑ Between 2005-2008, WHO detected 66 events/stories that contain information on chemicals in articles and/or health risks related to articles.
- ❑ GPHIN is the principle source of this information. GPHIN:
  - Allows real time screening of the internet for articles of public health relevancy
  - Enables early detection of events as well as retrospective search
  - Is it useful for articles?
- ❑ Information on articles containing chemicals as identified by WHO is usually shared with WHO Departments, Regional and Country Offices, which in turn, inform national health authorities, if appropriate.



## Contacts

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