

## CDC Alters Webpage Days After East Palestine Train Derailment to Make Vinyl Chloride Look Less Toxic

Archives of a CDC webpage show that for the first time in 9 years, the agency edited toxicity information on vinyl chloride just days after Ohio train derailment—but HHS and the EPA are in on it too.

By [Madge Waggy](#)

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*Reports are circulating on Twitter with claims the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed its guidelines on vinyl chloride days before the toxic release of chemicals in East Palestine, Ohio. But the reality is that the CDC was not the only agency involved, and the timing of the changes is in question.*

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and CDC worked together in a coordinated effort to alter vinyl chloride's toxicity guidelines shortly before and after the train derailment in Ohio that released 1.1 million pounds of toxic chemicals into the air, soil and water to make the chemical look less harmful.

In addition, just three months ago, East Palestine adopted a pilot program to respond to emergency events where digital IDs were given to residents to track long-term health problems like "difficulty breathing."

**Timeline:** (1) HHS and the CDC, in coordination with the EPA, publish an update to the vinyl chloride toxicity profile in January 2023 for the first time in 17 years. (2) Digital IDs on Jan. 26 are rolled out to East Palestine and a nearby township. (3) Train derails on Feb. 3 in East Palestine, Ohio, and a million pounds of highly toxic and potentially lethal vinyl chloride are released into the environment. (4) CDC alters its webpage on or around Feb. 6, 2023, on vinyl chloride, omitting key sections on toxicity. This webpage had not been reviewed for nine years. (5) Health and environmental officials deem the area safe. (6) Lawsuits are filed.

HHS, in January 2023, published a 293-page document called "Toxicological Profile of Vinyl Chloride," which was prepared in accordance with guidelines developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the EPA.

The original guidelines on vinyl chloride were published in the Federal Register in August 1989 and were (prior to Jan. 2023) most recently updated in 2006. So for 17 years, the toxicological profile of vinyl chloride had not been altered.

### VERSION HISTORY

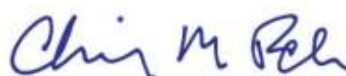
Date	Description
January 2023	Draft for public comment toxicological profile released
July 2006	Final toxicological profile released
September 1997	Final toxicological profile released
April 1993	Final toxicological profile released
August 1989	Final toxicological profile released

According to HHS, the ATSDR peer-reviewed toxicological profile of vinyl chloride “succinctly characterizes” its toxicologic and adverse health effects—and identifies available toxicological information, epidemiologic evaluations and the level of exposure that presents a significant risk to human health.

ATSDR toxicological guidelines are published by the CDC under the auspices of HHS and drafted in coordination with the EPA.



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The CDC’s FAQ webpage for vinyl chloride was recently modified as well. An archived version captured three days after the East Palestine train derailment shows a longer, more detailed FAQ section on vinyl chloride that included a section on the dangers of the chemical in children, recommendations made by the federal government to protect human health and a lower level of lethal exposure.

A current version of the same webpage omits this information, expands the level of human exposure (meaning you can suddenly be exposed to more of a highly toxic substance before you experience detrimental effects and includes a laughable new section on how to protect yourself and your family from vinyl chloride.

Here is a screenshot of the Feb. 6, 2023, archived version of the CDC’s FAQ webpage on vinyl chloride captured three days after the East Palestine train derailment. Notice on the right-hand side of the page it includes the sections “How can vinyl chloride affect children?” and “Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?”

Wayback Machine 30 captures 21 Nov 2021 - 18 Feb 2022

https://www.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=281&toxid=51

TSP Home

Vinyl Chloride

- ToxFAQs
- Public Health Statement
- Toxicological Profile
- ToxGuide
- Medical Management Guidelines (MMG) for Acute Chemical Exposure
- ToxProfile Index

## ToxFAQs™ for Vinyl Chloride

Languages other than English ▾

CAS#: 75-01-4

[PDF Version](#) [91.5 KB]

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions about vinyl chloride. For more information, you may call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-800-232-4636. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. This information is important because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

### Highlights

Exposure to vinyl chloride occurs mainly in the workplace. Breathing high levels of vinyl chloride for short periods of time can cause dizziness, sleepiness, unconsciousness, and at extremely high levels can cause death. Breathing vinyl chloride for long periods of time can result in permanent liver damage, immune reactions, nerve damage, and liver cancer. This substance has been found in at least 616 of the 1,662 National Priority List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is vinyl chloride?

### On This Page

Highlights

- What is vinyl chloride?
- What happens to vinyl chloride when it enters the environment?
- How might I be exposed to vinyl chloride?
- How can vinyl chloride affect my health?
- How likely is vinyl chloride to cause cancer?
- How can vinyl chloride affect children?
- How can families reduce the risk of exposure to vinyl chloride?
- Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to vinyl chloride?
- Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

When you select “How can vinyl chloride affect children?” you get the following now-deleted information:

Wayback Machine 30 captures 21 Nov 2021 - 18 Feb 2022

https://www.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=281&toxid=51

Go OCT FEB 07 2022 2023

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### How likely is vinyl chloride to cause cancer?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that vinyl chloride is a known carcinogen. Studies in workers who have breathed vinyl chloride over many years showed an increased risk of liver, brain, lung cancer, and some cancers of the blood have also been observed in workers.

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### How can vinyl chloride affect children?

It has not been proven that vinyl chloride causes birth defects in humans, but studies in animals suggest that vinyl chloride might affect growth and development. Animal studies also suggest that infants and young children might be more susceptible than adults to vinyl chloride-induced cancer.

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### How can families reduce the risk of exposure to vinyl chloride?

Tobacco smoke contains low levels of vinyl chloride, so limiting your family's exposure to cigarette or cigar smoke may help reduce their exposure to vinyl chloride.

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Here is the CDC’s current webpage at the same URL, showing the sections on the hazardous effects of vinyl chloride in children and federal government recommendations have been deleted:

# ToxFAQs™ for Vinyl Chloride

Languages other than English ▾

CAS#: 75-01-4

[PDF Version](#) [91.5 KB]

## What is vinyl chloride?

Vinyl chloride is a colorless gas with a mild, sweet odor. It burns easily and it is not stable at high temperatures. Vinyl chloride is a manufactured substance that does not occur naturally. It can be formed when other substances such as trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, and tetrachloroethylene are broken down.

Vinyl chloride is used to make polyvinyl chloride (PVC). PVC is used to make a variety of plastic products, including pipes, wire and cable coatings, and packaging materials.

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## What happens to vinyl chloride in the environment?

Liquid vinyl chloride evaporates easily. Vinyl chloride in water or soil evaporates rapidly if it is near the surface. Vinyl chloride in the air breaks down in a few days to other substances, some of which can be harmful. Small amounts of vinyl chloride can dissolve in water. Vinyl chloride is unlikely to build up in plants or animals that you might eat.

## On This Page

[What is vinyl chloride?](#)

[What happens to vinyl chloride in the environment?](#)

[How can I be exposed to vinyl chloride?](#)

[How can vinyl chloride affect my health?](#)

[Can vinyl chloride cause cancer?](#)

[Can I get a medical test to check for vinyl chloride?](#)

[How can I protect myself and my family from vinyl chloride?](#)

[For more information?](#)

**Here's the archived webpage version of the now-deleted section, "Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?" Note this section states that the "Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a limit of 1 part vinyl chloride per 1 million parts of air (1 ppm) in the workplace."**



### Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to vinyl chloride?

The results of several tests can sometimes show if you have been exposed to vinyl chloride. Vinyl chloride can be measured in your breath, but the test must be done shortly after exposure. This is not helpful for measuring very low levels of vinyl chloride.

The amount of the major breakdown product of vinyl chloride, thiodiglycolic acid, in the urine may give some information about exposure. However, this test must be done shortly after exposure and does not reliably indicate the level of exposure.

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### Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

Vinyl chloride is regulated in drinking water, food, and air. The EPA requires that the amount of vinyl chloride in drinking water not exceed 0.002 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of water.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a limit of 1 part vinyl chloride per 1 million parts of air (1 ppm) in the workplace.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the vinyl chloride content of various plastics. These include plastics that carry liquids and plastics that contact food. The limits for vinyl chloride content vary depending on the nature of the plastic and its use.

**Here is the current version of the same webpage where the section is entirely removed. Inserted instead are the CDC's ridiculous recommendations for protecting yourself from toxic vinyl chloride, namely, avoiding tobacco smoke.**

## Can vinyl chloride cause cancer?

The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#) has classified vinyl chloride as known to be a human carcinogen (cause cancer).

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) has classified vinyl chloride as a known human carcinogen by the inhalation route of exposure. It has also classified it as carcinogenic by the oral route and likely to be carcinogenic by the dermal route.

The [International Agency for Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#) determined that vinyl chloride is carcinogenic to humans.

## Can I get a medical test to check for vinyl chloride?

The results of several tests can sometimes show if you have been exposed to vinyl chloride. Vinyl chloride can be measured in your breath, but the test must be done shortly after exposure. This is not helpful for measuring very low levels of vinyl chloride.

The amount of the major breakdown product of vinyl chloride, thiodiglycolic acid, in the urine may give some information about exposure. However, this test must be done shortly after exposure and may also indicate exposure to other chemicals in addition to or besides vinyl chloride.

## How can I protect myself and my family from vinyl chloride?

Tobacco smoke contains low levels of vinyl chloride, so limiting your family's exposure to cigarette or cigar smoke may help reduce their exposure to vinyl chloride.

Workers using or making vinyl chloride should wear protective eye wear, clothing, gloves, and when needed, respiratory protection.

**At the bottom of the archived Feb. 6, 2023, CDC webpage, it says the agency last reviewed this page on August 28, 2014. This is classic CDC behavior. For nine years, nobody touched this page. As soon as people started pointing out how toxic vinyl chloride is, began reporting health effects and the real media picked it up, the CDC snuck in to review the page to remove incriminating information. Sound familiar?**



ppm) in the workplace.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the vinyl chloride content of various plastics. These include plastics that carry liquids and plastics that contact food. The limits for vinyl chloride content vary depending on the nature of the plastic and its use.

### References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2006. [Toxicological Profile for Vinyl Chloride](#). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

### Where can I get more information?

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your community or state health or environmental quality department or:

#### For more information, contact:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Office of Innovation and Analytics, Toxicology Section  
4770 Buford Highway  
Chamblee, GA 30341-3717  
Phone: 1-800-CDC-INFO 888-232-6348 (TTY)  
Email: [Contact CDC-INFO](#)

ATSDR can also tell you the location of occupational and environmental health clinics. These clinics specialize in recognizing, evaluating, and treating illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances.



According to the National Cancer Institute, vinyl chloride is a gas used to make polyvinyl chloride (PVC) hard plastic resin in plastic products and is associated with an increased risk of cancer. The gas is highly toxic and even lethal if inhaled.

According to HHS, vinyl chloride is a known human carcinogen. The EPA classifies vinyl chloride as a human carcinogen when inhaled, yet claimed the air in East Palestine was safe to breathe just days after the incident and water with visible chemical toxicity was safe.

**As if this story didn't have enough twists already, it was recently revealed that days before the incident, the Morning Journal reported the East Palestine Fire Department was "hosting a sign-up event" for a service called MyID targeting both East Palestine and a nearby township.**



**Robert Runnion, a councilman, said he hoped people in the community would take advantage of the new service.**

“MyID is a program that helps first responders aid victims more effectively and efficiently,” Runnion said.

The MyID company claims to be a “comprehensive medical ID solution that provides an easy way to access, store and manage your health information” through bracelets, tags, stickers, and wallet cards with a QR code that can be scanned to access your online health information in a few seconds.

The MyID app displays your diagnosis, personal information, emergency contacts, allergies, medications and medical providers.

How ironic.

According to WKBN27 news, the MyID plan was months in the making. In October 2022, it ran an “advertorial” of the MyID rollout in East Palestine. Here is the introductory paragraph:

**“East Palestine is known as ‘The Place to Be.’ It’s way ahead of the curve on a program to provide better treatment for anyone in the event of an emergency. We learned how it works and how it could help everyone in East Palestine.”**

In a follow-up Jan. 26 article published by WKBN27, East Palestine fire chief Keith Drabick stated, “We’re not doing this to gain anybody’s information, to try and steal anybody’s information. We’re doing this to help the public in medical emergencies.”

Drabick continued, “Anybody that skeptical? Please come on down. Sit down, and talk to us. We’ll be happy to show you everything that goes on with it. We’ll be happy to show you how secure it is.”

Interesting how the fire department—which people typically have great trust in—was used to promote this invasive digital ID system.

**Regardless of the timeline of events, the CDC’s manipulation of its webpage is highly suspicious. The agency either knew an event like this would happen or scrubbed its page after the fact to cover up a devastating environmental catastrophe and shield itself, HHS, the EPA and the train company from liability.**

What is clear is that the CDC is again lying to the American people to downplay the harmful and potentially lethal effects of vinyl chloride. This sounds eerily familiar.

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