

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Bullets

- When ventilation is not sufficient in dwelling units produced with products containing formaldehyde, the formaldehyde “off-gasses” into the unit, which in large quantities and high temperatures crystallizes and imbeds in lungs causing health problems
- Symptoms of formaldehyde exposure are irritation in throat, nose, eyes, on skin and upper respiratory tract.
- The average of 519 FEMA units tested Dec 07-Jan08 was 77ppb with range from 3ppb to 590 ppb
 - Occupants were exposed to much higher levels than represented in the study first moved into the temporary housing as off-gassing and formaldehyde levels are highest after initial construction and in warm weather, the study was conducted two years after these units were first occupied and in the winter months (from CDC report)
- U.S. background levels of formaldehyde (the levels people are typically exposed to during daily life) are 10-30ppb.
- Most people notice symptoms around 500 ppb, sensitive people (asthma, COPD, etc.) show symptoms around 100 ppb. (CDC report)
- Formaldehyde classified a “carcinogenic to humans” by International Agency for Research on Cancer
- New FEMA spec for alternative housing units is a max of 16ppb and is the lowest published threshold known to our industrial hygienist (FEMA allowing 40 ppb in Park models purchased in 2009)
- The 2432-2 ReadyShelter™ has passed and exceeded FEMA standards in all 6 tests attempted in last 18 months with an average of 9 ppb. (CAF has zero formaldehyde, but the countertops, cabinets, and sub-floor have trace amounts).