

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
Public Health Service ZHS Communicable Disease Center
605 Volunteer Building, Atlanta 3, Georgia

Typhus Control Memorandum No. 59

August 27, 1948

TO: District Directors, State Health Officers, and Others Concerned
ATTN: CDC Activities - Typhus Control
SUBJECT: More 1080 Killings

1. Two more children were killed by 1080, recently. The poison was the direct cause of death, but the killer was actually ignorant of or flagrant disregard for basic precautions.

2. E. S. 20 month old child of a New York couple found a piece of bread soaked in 1080 under a neighbor's refrigerator during a friendly visit. She apparently nibbled on it during the evening then was stricken with toxic convulsions about 4:30 a.m. The following are excerpts from the attending physician's report.

"The above patient, an acutely ill, well nourished and well developed twenty month old, white female was admitted in convulsions on 3/1/48. Pupils were fixed and non-reactive . . . temperature was normal, breathing irregular, color - ashen. Skin was warm, not cold or clammy. Breath sounds were clear . . . impression was that of a toxic convulsion due to ingestion of a poison, type unknown . . .
3/2/48 - 12 a.m. . . . Respirations were suddenly noted to have dropped to three to four per minute and were of a sighing nature . . .
3/2/48 - 3 a.m. . . . Respirations became noisy with sound of mucus in the throat . . . respirations, however, did not improve and color was again very ashen and pale.
3/2/48 - 4:15 a.m. . . . The child suddenly gave a deep gasp and its facial expression became masklike . . . after about five minutes . . . no pulse was felt and no heart sounds were audible. Child was pronounced dead at 4:45 a.m."

3. The poison was subsequently found to be 1080. It was acquired under obscure circumstances and used in a manner entirely contrary to recommended procedure by unauthorized persons.

4. The other child, eleven months old [REDACTED], formerly of Ocala, Florida, chewed on a souffle cup which she found on the floor of her home. The cup had contained 1080 water and had been placed there about a month before by a local exterminator.

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5. These killings would not have happened if the cardinal rules of 1080 utilization had not been violated.

- a. 1080 should never be placed where a child could gain access to it.
- b. 1080 should not be used in residences.
- c. 1080 cups should always be recovered and destroyed.

For the Chief, Engineering Division.

John S. Wiley
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i/c Typhus Control Branch