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Government of India



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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
4511	05.02.2018	06.02.2018	Howrah West Bengal	www.millenniumpost.in/English http://www.millenniumpost.in/kolkata/50-fall-ill-following-chlorine-gas-leak-near-howrah-283516
Title:	At least 50 people including kids fell ill after inhaling poisonous chlorine gas which leaked from a drum inside a factory in Howrah district, West Bengal			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Howrah, SSU-West Bengal			

At least 50 people including kids have fallen ill after inhaling poisonous chlorine gas which leaked from a drum inside a factory in Howrah's Ghushuri on Monday morning. The incident that took place near Jagannath ghat in Belur sparked panic among locals. People felt a burning sensation in their eyes following the leakage. Some of the nearby schools were shut down due to the incident. After being informed, fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and threw the packed container into

River Hooghly. The river water turned yellow due to chemical reaction, posing a serious threat to the plants and animals underwater. Those who were injured were immediately taken to T L Jaiswal Hospital in Howrah. Most of the victims had complained about a burning sensation in their eyes and respiratory distress. While most of the patients are now stated to be in stable condition, some were vomiting. Some of the locals around Jagannath ghat became agitated and prevented the fire brigade to bury the container near the bank.

Having found no option, the fire brigade personnel finally threw the container into the river polluting the water. When the factory officials found the drum to be leaking they immediately informed the matter to the fire brigade and police who rushed to

Save Water- Save Life, Save a tree- Don't print unless it's really necessary!



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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

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the spot to bring the situation under control. Police helped the fire brigade personnel to take the drum to Jagannath ghat for defusing the gas.

They used microphones to alert locals living around Jagannath ghat to go away from the river bank as the container was thrown into the river. Locals, however, alleged that fire personnel reached the spot late. According to police, the leakage took place at around 9 am on Monday. The fire brigade officials initially tried to identify the leakage. After identifying the leakage, they started repairing it. Soaps were applied to repair the leakage. Locals were asked by the fire officials not to light matches to avert any major tragedy.

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