West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 22, 2013

- 24-hour operations were for mobile air monitoring have been discontinued and will continue through 1900 hrs on Monday, 4/22/13. Air monitoring will resume at 0700 hrs on Tuesday and continue through 1900 hrs each day. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters which include volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during todays operations.
- EPA OSCS attended site briefings and law enforcement/operational briefings, conducted a meeting with CSB, TCEQ, and OSHA, and coordinated with ATF, CSB, TCEQ, OSHA, DOT, the Office of the Texas State Chemist, and EPA CID on current and future site operations.
- EPA attended a meeting for all Federal Agencies as requested by FEMA.
- CSB took bulk samples of dry wall, roofing material, insulation material etc. on West Fertilizer Facility property for asbestos on 4/21/13. CSB reported that results for all 9 samples collected were negative for asbestos.
- 2-EPA OSCs, 1 EPA PIO, and 4 START contractors conducted operations throughout the day.