Texas Poison Center Network

Monday, April 22, 2013
Anhydrous Ammonia Explosion in West, Texas

Daily Situation Report (SITREP) #3
Reporting Period: Wednesday, April 17 - Sunday, April 21, 2013

Current Situation:

- West Fertilizer Chemical plant caught fire the evening of April 17, 2013. While firefighters were responding, a large explosion took place around 2000 sending a large plume of smoke into the air. The explosion leveled multiple blocks of the town. It was determined that the plant held anhydrous ammonia.

- TCEQ reported to DSHS that they were detecting 60-100ppm of ammonia at points fairly close.

- Poison Centers collected data from calls in which information regarding the chemicals involved were requested or where a person reported being exposed to toxic fumes.

- The TPCN received a total of 21 calls from the evening of 4/17 through 4/21. Of these calls, 9 calls were possible exposures and 12 were requests for information calls.

- The TPCN is providing Anhydrous Ammonia Explosion related case data to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services for statistical purposes.

Calls per County Received to Date:

County	#	%
McLennan	7	33.3%
Dallas	5	23.8%
Hill	2	9.5%
Tarrant	2	9.5%
Travis	2	9.5%
Bell	1	4.8%
Coryell	1	4.8%
Hunt	1	4.8%

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Exposure Calls Received to Date:

County	#	%
McLennan	4	44%
Dallas	1	11%
Hill	1	11%
Travis	1	11%
Coryell	1	11%
Hunt	1	11%

Symptoms Reported to Date:

Symptom	#	%
Shortness of Breath	3	33%
Cough	3	33%
Asymptomatic	2	22%
Throat Irritation	2	22%
Eye Irritation	1	11%
Skin Irritation	1	11%
Anemia	1	11%
Urinary Sediment	1	11%
Respiratory Depression	1	11%
Headache	1	11%

*Patients may have more than one symptom

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