Texas Poison Center Network

Thursday, April 18, 2013
Anhydrous Ammonia Explosion in West, Texas

Daily Situation Report (SITREP) #1
Reporting Period: Wednesday, April 17 - 1400 Thursday, April 18, 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 15 calls from the evening of 4/17 through 4/18 @ 1400. Of these calls, 7 calls were possible exposures and 8 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	6	40%
Dallas	3	20%
Hill	2	13%
Travis	2	13%
Coryell	1	7%
Hunt	1	7%

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Exposure Calls Received to Date:

County	#	%
McLennan	3	43%
Hill	1	14%
Travis	1	14%
Coryell	1	14%
Hunt	1	14%

Symptoms Reported to Date:

Symptom	#	%
Shortness of Breath	3	43%
Cough	2	29%
Asymptomatic	2	29%
Throat Irritation	2	29%
Skin Irritation	1	14%
Respiratory Depression	1	14%
Headache	1	14%

*patients could have multiple symptoms, so the total numbers are larger than the 7 patients

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