West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 23, 2013, 1200 CDT

- On April 22, 2013, EPA continued air monitoring activities with two stationary sites proximal to the facility and one mobile monitoring team that monitored in the neighborhoods west of the facility. Twenty-four hour air monitoring activities have been reduced to daylight operations only. 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 today's operations.
- The Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) met with all federal agencies today en route to coordinate with State of Texas officials in Austin, Texas. The meeting consisted mainly of the FEMA FCO expressing a consistency of cooperation among federal agencies while supporting state and local response efforts. FEMA has classified this event as Category B, which relates to emergency protective measures, as well as time and money spent for response efforts - reimbursement for state and local responders.
- Chemical Safety Board (CSB) collected 9 samples on West Fertilizer Company property. CSB reported that results for the samples of dry wall, roofing tile, insulation material, and other fibrous material were negative for asbestos.
- EPA continues to coordinate with ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- TCEQ contractors continued conducting air monitoring around the facility perimeter.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. Investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.
- A demand letter was issued by TCEQ to West Fertilizer Company. The letter outlines various codes related to imminent substantial endangerment in which the RP would need to notify TCEQ with intent of response within 5 days.
- TCEQ and EPA RA will tour site on 4/23.
- POTUS will attend a memorial for citizens of West on Thursday in Waco.
- OSC E. Delgado will transition with OSC Moore on 4/23 and continue to address data needs from the field.

Personnel	EPA OSC In Field	EPA RSC in Field	R6 Contractor In Field	National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents	EPA In REOC	Contractor In REOC	Total
Total	**3**	**2**	**4**	**1**	**5**	**0**	**15**

*Current as of 0700hrs 4/23. OSC's deployed with the Mobile Command Post.

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