West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 21, 2013

- 24-hour operations included mobile air monitoring for volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background were detected.
- EPA obtained written access from the City of West and West ISD to collected 12 soil samples from residential easements, West ISD Schools, and a City Park in the immediate vicinity of the site. Samples were collected to evaluate the potential off-site presence of site related pesticides. A total of 12 composite soil samples were collected and submitted for pesticides analysis. Preliminary results will be received by Friday, April 26, 2013.
- Re-entry activities for residents located in the secondary exclusion zone up to West Spring Street. Insurance adjustors and media personnel were also granted access.
- 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 will attend a meeting for all Federal Agencies as requested by FEMA on Monday, April 22.
- 4-EPA OSCs, 1 EPA PIO, and 5 START contractors conducted 24-hour site operations, spaced over two shifts. The Regional MCP is on-site.