West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 20, 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.
- One START contractor conducted air monitoring for volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas with a team of investigators from multiple agencies including ATF, CSB, OSHA, and EPA CID. The team assessed the property inside the primary perimeter (surrounding and including the blast site) for safety and evidence collection in anticipation of property owners returning to assess their properties. No air monitoring readings above background were detected.
- At 1155, ASPECT conducted an over flight of the explosion site and potentially affected areas. The results were……..???
- 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, the 6th CST, the Office of the Texas State Chemist, and EPA CID on current and future site operations.
- EPA OSCs, Region 6 Risk Assessors, and START are drafting a draft QASP for assessment of the areas potentially affected by pesticides involved in the West Fertilizer, Inc. explosion.
- 4-EPA OSCs, 1 EPA PIO, and 8 START contractors conducted 24-hour site operations, spaced over two shifts. The Regional MCP is on-site.

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