West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 22, 2013 1200 CST

- 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.
- EPA requested information that the Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) would have with regard to any chemicals present at the West Fertilizer facility. OTSC responded with their website where they have posted public information about the facility. http://otscweb.tamu.edu/
- 24-hour operations included mobile air monitoring for volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. Overnight, 4 air monitoring events performed during the night shift had variable detections for NH3 ranging from 0.1 to 1.0 ppm. Upon inspection of the equipment, it was noted the unit performed the variable readings both in the field and inside the Command Post. The unit was recalibrated and tested, yet still showed variability. The fluctuating reading has been attributed to sensor variability.
- April 21: EPA obtained written access from the City of West and West ISD to collect at total of 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 pesticide/herbicide analysis. Preliminary results will be received by **Friday, April 26, 2013**.
- Re-entry activities continue for residents located in the secondary exclusion zone up to West Spring Street. Insurance adjustors and media personnel were also granted access on April 21, 2013.
- April 21, 2013, at 1900: Union Pacific Railroad restored service to the rail line along the western border of the West Fertilizer site.
- EPA will attend a meeting for all Federal Agencies as requested by FEMA on Monday, April 22.

- Per the State, damage to the public water system main delivery line was identified, which resulted in low water pressure in a section of the delivery system and repair requirements are being assessed. A boil water notice remains in place.

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
	4	2	5	2	5	2	20
Total	**4**	**2**	**5**	2	5	**2**	20

*OSCs deployed with the Mobile Command Post