From: Lawrence, Kathryn
To: Nixon, Donald
Cc: Steiner, Cyntia
Subject: Re: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident
Date: Monday, May 08, 2017 12:39:36 PM

I have already alerted Dan and asked him to give ENF a more formal heads up and ask them for their future comms preferences.

You guys were totally fine with the way you went about this at a peer level. Janice was right to cc her management when she responded, but I don't think the info request needed a separate level above path. Dan sent out an earlier ER blast to SMT and others, including ENF so folks were in the loop. We just need to update the ask part of those messages on the future to reflect the CIIP need.

Kathryn Lawrence
Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Programs
EPA Region 9
4159723039

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2017, at 12:26 PM, Nixon, Donald <Nixon.Donald@epa.gov> wrote:

> I agree, since this CIIP/FECS is new to both of us.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Steiner, Cyntia
> **Sent:** Monday, May 08, 2017 8:23 AM
> **To:** Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Nixon, Donald <Nixon.Donald@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** FW: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident
>
> FYI – not sure what the usual channels are that Janice is referring to … We should discuss.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Witul, Janice
> **Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 5:19 PM
> **To:** Steiner, Cyntia <Steiner.Cyntia@epa.gov>; Reich, Peter <Reich.Peter@epa.gov>; Wampler, David <Wampler.David@epa.gov>; Berg, Elizabeth <Berg.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Nixon, Donald <Nixon.Donald@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident
>
> Cynthia –
> Since this request did not come through the usual channels, I spoke with Claire Trombadore about providing the information. Her advice was to provide information now and put enforcement management in the loop. Here's a brief summary of the

latest visit:

Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) and Facility Response Plan (FRP) Regulations

The Valero Benicia Refinery is regulated under 40 CFR 112, and has SPCC and FRP Plans. Oil Program personnel and an EPA OSC conducted an inspection of the facility in December 2015, after a discharge from a hydrocarbon storage tank was reported. Discharge was retained in secondary containment, and did not reach water. No enforcement action was taken by US EPA.

Janice Witul
US EPA Region 9
Oil Program
75 Hawthorne St., ENF-3-2
San Francisco CA 94105
415 972 3089
fax 415 947 3519

<image001.gif>

From: Steiner, Cyntia
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 3:36 PM
To: Witul, Janice <Witul.Janice@epa.gov>; Reich, Peter <Reich.Peter@epa.gov>
Cc: Nixon, Donald <Nixon.Donald@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Hi Janice and Pete,

You two are identified as the SPCC coordinators for the region on our website … thus the email. The Valero Refinery in Benicia is having a flaring incident and we have been tasked to put together a **FACILITY ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE SUMMARY.** Do you think you could draft something similar to the following example for the refinery ..

Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulations (SPCC) and Facility Response Plan Regulations (FRP)

International Paper is a regulated SPCC facility. Based on capacity, the facility is not a FRP regulated facility. The facility had a prior release (July 8, 1999) in which a total of 55,000 gallons of #4 recycled fuel oil was inadvertently released onto facility grounds; 10,000 gallons entered secondary containment and 45,000 gallons was discharged to a drainage

ditch and surrounding soil on the facility premises. International Paper utilized SWS to complete the response and removal action preventing migration off-site to Eleven Mile Creek located approximately 2 miles away. At the time of this incident, the facility did not have an approved SPCC Plan in place.

Thanks, Cyntia

Cyntia Steiner
EPA Region 9, Superfund Division
Emergency Prevention & Prepardness Section (SFD-9-3)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 945105
415-947-4112

From: Nixon, Donald
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:44 PM
To: Steiner, Cyntia <Steiner.Cyntia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Yes, Dan sent a few examples…..it looks like they want any compliance history across medias. I'm going to start with the RMP stuff.

I am using the Black Liquor as an outline, and just filling in info as I can find it.

From: Steiner, Cyntia
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Nixon, Donald <Nixon.Donald@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

ECHO is a good place to start, but log-in as EPAer because you get access to non-public info. As a back- up you can contact Enforcement Division and ask Angela Baranco to do an ICIS run. Give her name of facility and tell her to run a report going back 10 (?) years on all CAA (?) actions.

Not sure what info you need to include in report out. Do you have access to examples (reports highlighted) …

We'll be preparing an EOC Spot Report out of HQ. OEM Management has requested a CIIP from Region 9 for this incident. I am attaching an example CIIP from Region 7 for reference. The CIIP begins on page 3.

Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:21 PM

To: Steiner, Cyntia <Steiner.Cyntia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Thanks.

Dan said if it goes into Monday, that would be OK, but I want to at least get a good start, so that if I have to hand this off to be completed, due to my dentist appointment Monday morning, it will be mostly done.

For other media, is ECO the best place to find recent info.?

Let me know if you have any questions or don't understand any of my comments on Gallo.

From: Steiner, Cyntia
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Nixon, Donald <Nixon.Donald@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Let me know if I can help with anything.

From: Nixon, Donald
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 12:30 PM
To: Steiner, Cyntia <Steiner.Cyntia@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Looks like I will have a busy afternoon.

From: Lee, Eugene
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Meer, Daniel <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov>
Cc: Nixon, Donald <Nixon.Donald@epa.gov>; Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>; Johnstone, Jeremy <Johnstone.Jeremy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Thanks Dan.

From: Meer, Daniel
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Lee, Eugene <Lee.Eugene@epa.gov>
Cc: Nixon, Donald <Nixon.Donald@epa.gov>; Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>; Johnstone, Jeremy <Johnstone.Jeremy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Don Nixon is the staff person who is looking at past compliance information. I am pretty sure that last RMP inspection was a number of years ago, perhaps as far back as 2011

Daniel A. Meer, Assistant Director
Superfund Division
Emergency Response, Preparedness and Prevention Branch
415.972.3132 (O)
415.971.6792 (C)

From: Lee, Eugene
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 12:18 PM
To: Meer, Daniel <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Cc: Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Understood and we will let the OEM'ers know that you are working on it…

Eugene

From: Meer, Daniel
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 3:16 PM
To: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Cc: Lee, Eugene <Lee.Eugene@epa.gov>; Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

It might be Monday, we are very thin on staff today.

Daniel A. Meer, Assistant Director
Superfund Division
Emergency Response, Preparedness and Prevention Branch
415.972.3132 (O)
415.971.6792 (C)

From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 11:49 AM
To: Meer, Daniel <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov>
Cc: Lee, Eugene <Lee.Eugene@epa.gov>; Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

As soon as you can manage given your current response priorities.

Including a few more documents and examples for your reference. Thanks much.

Pete Oh, Sr. Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850 (24hrs)
eoc.epahq@epa.gov

From: Meer, Daniel
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 2:44 PM
To: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Cc: Lee, Eugene <Lee.Eugene@epa.gov>; Lawrence, Kathryn <Lawrence.Kathryn@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

How soon for the ciip?

Daniel A. Meer, Assistant Director
Superfund Division
Emergency Response, Preparedness and Prevention Branch
415.972.3132 (O)
415.971.6792 (C)

From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 11:40 AM
To: Meer, Daniel <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov>
Cc: Lee, Eugene <Lee.Eugene@epa.gov>; Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Hi Dan,
Thanks so much for this information. We'll be preparing an EOC Spot Report out of HQ. OEM Management has requested a CIIP from Region 9 for this incident. I am attaching an example CIIP from Region 7 for reference. The CIIP begins on page 3. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Pete Oh, Sr. Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850 (24hrs)
eoc.epahq@epa.gov

From: Meer, Daniel
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:53 PM
To: R9_ER List <R9_ER_List@epa.gov>
Subject: Valero Refinery Flaring Incident

Overview:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->At approximately 0615 hours Pacific Time, a power outage at the Valero Refinery in Benicia, CA caused a large, unplanned flaring incident. The power outage was apparently due to activity by the local utility, Pacific Gas & Electric. The refinery continues to be without power.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->The heavy smoke from the flaring caused local authorities to order and implement small scale evacuations and shelter-in-place in Benicia, in the immediate vicinity and downwind of the facility. An unknown number of people were evacuated from a nearby industrial park at 0745 hours. The shelter-in-place orders continue, including two elementary schools (Roberts Temple and Mathew Turner) to the north of the facility. Evacuation advisories, however, have been lifted.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->Steady westerly winds appear to be dissipating the thickest plumes of smoke and the smoke and flaring activity appear to be decreasing. However air quality is described as 'bad' with heavy to a severe smell of sulfur dioxide in neighborhoods downwind of the refinery. Ground level fence line monitors at the refinery are showing 5 ppb SO2. No sampling has occurred as of 1030 hours.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->The Valero Refinery is reporting their initial estimates that 9,403 pounds of material have been released by the flaring.

Federal, State and Local Authority Actions:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Multiple state and local authorities responded immediately to the incident.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->They include the **Bay Area Air Quality Management District** that deployed a mobile monitoring van with real time SO2 monitoring capability and personnel to take summa canister samples;
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->the **California Air Resources Board** which has modeling staff on standby if needed and is deploying particulate monitors (EBAMS) for PM10 and PM2.5;
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->the **Solano County Hazardous Materials Unit** responded at the request of the **Benicia Fire Department**;
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Solano County HazMat is maintaining contact with the Bay Area AQMD and the neighboring Contra Costa County Community Warning System;
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->the **California Occupational Safety and Health Administration** is sending staff to the refinery.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Several roads and highways near the facility have been closed by the **City of Benicia** and the **California Highway Patrol**.

EPA Actions:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Region 9 mobilized 2 OSCs - Maggie Waldon and Steve Calanog - and 3 technical assessment contractors to the Unified Command. EPA is deploying hand held monitors for SO2, H2S and particulates at the request of the Bay Area AQMD;
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->The Region will maintain its close contact with local and state authorities that are responding.

Media Interest

Local media interest is high.

http://kron4.com/2017/05/05/flaring-at-valero-refinery-in-benicia/

Daniel A. Meer, Assistant Director
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