**Intercontinental Terminals Co LLC Fire – Deer Park, TX**

**Background:**

- At approximately 10:20 am local time on March 17, 2019, Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC (ITC) discovered a tank on fire and reported the incident to the National Response Center. EPA mobilized Emergency Response On Scene Coordinators to the incident. A total of fifteen (15) tanks could have been potentially involved in the fire, which began in a tank of naphtha in the middle of the tank battery.

**Key Points:**

- ***What does the Administrator need to know about this issue?***
  - EPA has been in unified command with federal (United States Coast Guard - USCG), state (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - TCEQ) and local (Harris County) officials to assist in the response. EPA, working with USCG and TCEQ has focused on environmental issues including air monitoring and water run-off issues.
- ***Are there political sensitivities?***
  - There are environmental justice areas within the area of the plume, which have received additional air monitoring to ensure the constituents of the plume are below action levels.
- ***Is the Agency planning any major actions on the specific topic?***
  - EPA will continue to work with the State of Texas providing environmental monitoring and sampling to assess environmental impacts associated with this emergency response.
- ***What, if any, are the risks with this issue?***
  - It is important to share the monitoring results with the public and state/local officials so that appropriate decisions can be made concerning public safety.

**Talking Points:**

- EPA deployed Emergency Response On-Scene Coordinators and a Public Information Officer to the site, as well as established an environmental unit at Regional office to assist in managing the environmental data being collected at the incident. EPA assets deployed as part of this incident include: The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft which conducted daily flights over the ITC fire and provided monitoring results and maps to the response personnel. Additionally, at the request of the State of Texas, EPA deployed the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA), is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling and of outdoor air or emissions. All air monitoring results have been below established action levels.
- EPA will continue to work with state and local officials to monitor for environmental impacts and ensure that cleanup operations are conducted in compliance with relevant statutes and regulations.
- EPA would like to commend the efforts of the local first responders who worked tirelessly to help in extinguishing the fires before they could spread to adjoining tank farms, thus reducing the overall environmental threat. EPA has worked for over 30 years with local communities within Region 6 on emergency planning and preparedness to help ensure communities have capabilities to respond to incidents such as these.



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