Message

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Sent: 3/19/2019 7:55:29 PM
To: Assunto, Carmen [assunto.carmen@epa.gov]
CC: Bokun, Lisa [Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov]
Subject: ITC Update

Send to Cong delegation

ITC FIRE
DEER PARK, TEXAS
MARCH 19, 2019

EPA Update

EPA continues to participate in Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services, and ITC. It is anticipated that the fire will continue to take several days to burn out.

As of 8:00 am, there are 8 tanks involved with the fire within the fire wall.

Tank	Product	Estimated Volume (bbls) as reported by ITC March 17, 2019	Status
1	yubase 56030	NOT INVOLVED	
2	Gasoline Blendstock	29289	ENGULFED (COLLAPSED)
3	Gasoline Blendstock	59927	ENGULFED BUCKLING
4	yubase 46948	NOT INVOLVED	
5	xylenes 38330	FLAMES ON ROOF	
6	Gasoline Blendstock	48147	FLAMES ON ROOF
7	Pygas	42680	NOT CURRENTLY INVOLVED
8	Naptha 69329	FLAMES ON TOP	
9	EMPTY	COLLAPSED	
10	Pygas	19281	NOT CURRENTLY INVOLVED
11	SN115	61260	FLAMES ON ROOF
12	EMPTY	COLLAPSED	
13	Tolune 15413	NOT CURRENTLY INVOLVED	
14	Pygas (Gas Blend with high Benzene content)	25282	NEWLY INVOLVED
15	Pygas (Gas Blend with high Benzene content)	9354	NEWLY INVOLVED

Both the Deer Park and La Porte ISDs opened at normal times this morning (03/19).

The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus departed Monday March 18, 2019 and revised its arrival time to be on site by Thursday (3/21).

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values. ASPECT conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Intercontinental Terminals Company in Deer Park, Texas on March 18, 2019. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs. 1-Butene, acetone, isoprene, and 2-Butene were detected at or below 1 ppm at several hundred meters in the atmosphere.

Instantaneous monitoring of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) continues to be conducted by the responsible party. As of noon, on 03/18, CTEH had taken 153 readings for VOCs. There are still no readings above health action levels.

Harris County Pollution Control is conducting air monitoring to address complaints that have been received by their office.

EPA completed air monitoring around the 14 identified Superfund NPL sites in between 4pm March 18, 2019, and 4 am March 19, 2019, to determine any effects of the plume at those sites. No detections were identified.

EPA conducted handheld air monitoring at 25 locations between 4pm March 18, 2019 and 4 am March 19, 2019. The teams are traveling throughout the area and are collecting monitoring data based on wind directions. No results above the detection limit have been observed.

ITC continues to take hourly water samples at the ditch feeding into Tucker Bayou and sending the samples to an outside laboratory for analysis. Initial results are expected to become available between Wednesday and Friday. There is boom deployed in the ditch to capture the foam. Traces of foam have been observed in the ditch and Tucker Bayou by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Harris County reported that they have received complaints of particulate matter. ITC will begin monitoring for PM 2.5.

TCEQ Update

Overnight air quality levels for particulate matter increased slightly—consistent with TCEQ's Air Quality Forecast—in areas around the multi-tank fire at Intercontinental Terminals Co. in Deer Park.

General ambient levels of PM2.5 and PM10 near the Houston Ship Channel increased to the moderate level since the ITC fire began on March 17. While these concentrations went up, they have since decreased and have consistently remained below levels considered unhealthy for sensitive groups.

Sensitive populations should consider limiting their exposure to the ambient particulate matter by decreasing outdoor exercise or moving into air-conditioned buildings. All residents should avoid being directly in the smoke plume. If people experience health difficulties, they should consult with their doctor.

TCEQ is ensuring that the responsible party is taking all appropriate actions to address this incident. TCEQ continues to provide air monitoring in addition to monitoring being conducted by other entities, including ITC's contractor. Also, EPA's ASPECT airplane continues to provide air monitoring flights over the area.

In addition to TCEQ's extensive ambient air monitoring network in and around Houston, the agency on Monday, March 18, deployed two additional air monitoring stations to the area, and TCEQ staff is conducting hand-held air monitoring and overseeing collection of sampling in nearby waterways in coordination with the unified command.

See TCEQ's ITC Terminal Fire Incident webpage for updates concerning this response, including trending graphs and a map with real-time data from TCEQ's stationary ambient monitoring sites via GeoTAM.