Message

From: Bernier, Roberto [bernier.roberto@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/31/2017 10:37:00 PM
To: Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]; Foster, Althea [foster.althea@epa.gov]
Subject: Arkema field update

8/31/17 Akema Update, as of 1730:

- No substantial changes since first peroxide critical degradation/decomposition and subsequent fire earlier this morning.

- Access to the facility is still not possible and unsafe.

- 1.5-mile radius evacuation still in effect.

- ASPECT has performed XX overflights with no detections, except a 5 ppm peroxides at XXXXX

- Mobile ground air monitoring for pollutants of concern including VOCs, SO2 and CO. Not many points to collect data are available due to exclusion zone, flood waters, and no roads present.

    - 2 EPA team
    - 1 Harris County Pollution Control team
    - 1 Liberty County team (county to the east).

So far all reading are non-detect at ground monitoring

- At around 2:20 pm CST, the RP indicated that three of the remaining eight trailers storing heat sensitive peroxides were reaching the self-accelerating decomposition temperature and close to critical degradation/fire. There's still a possibility of explosion or rapid exothermic reaction. The three trailers are part of the six that are stationed closed together in the far north side of the facility, hence the possibility that all six could become damaged almost simultaneously because of proximity.

- UC established with EPA, TCEQ, Crosby FD, Harris County Fire Marshal Office, and RP.

- Expecting on maintaining a presence 24-hrs

1 EPA, 4 START