Message

Sent: 11/29/2019 10:24:47 PM
To: Acevedo, Janie [acevedo.janie@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]
CC: Assunto, Carmen [assunto.carmen@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Need Approval - Press Inquiry KPRC Channel 2

The judge indicated this morning in the 10 am press conference that this facility was constructed in about the 1940's. With this being the case, asbestos was utilized in facility piping and insulating. As a result of the explosions and follow on fires and considering the winds since the incident occurred, there is a probability that asbestos is or may be present in the community. The advise was given to the community that any white powder, flakes, debris on a person's property should be left alone. Residents were advised to contact the TPC hotline number/claim number and report these concerns and TPC would respond and address the issue and possibly collect samples.

Based on the explosions and weather temperature inversions, there are measurements of particulates that have been observed above action levels in the nearby community downwind of the facility. In the press releases this afternoon, it advised that anyone

From: Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Adams, Adam <Adams.Adam@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>
Cc: Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>
Subject: Need Approval - Press Inquiry KPRC Channel 2

Are you ok with me sending this statement to the report? Have you heard anything there about concerns on asbestos?

Question:
I'm a reporter in Houston, covering the TPC plant explosion in Port Neches. Residents are being warned about asbestos residue following the explosion. I'm seeking information about what residents should do and how big of a health threat this is. Can you please call me ASAP at 832-457-9793. Thank you!

Proposed Response:
Thank you for writing us. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are working with Unified Command (UC) in response to an explosion at the TPC Group Plant in Port Neches, TX. EPA is monitoring with the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology aircraft (ASPECT) and has several On-Scene Coordinators and technical support personnel at the Site. Since early in the incident, EPA has been on scene and integrated into the UC. Throughout the response, the Agency has been using the ASPECT plane and had ground teams conducting air monitoring in the vicinity of TPC and downwind community. The State and TPC are also conducting handheld monitoring and collecting data downwind and in the community.

For additional information on EPA's response efforts: response.epa.gov/south4groupfire.

For additional information on TCEQ's response efforts: **https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/tpc-incident/tpc-port-neches-plant-fire**

From: Fanning, Cynthia <fanning.cynthia@epa.gov> **On Behalf Of** R6Press
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 3:33 PM

To: Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>
Cc: McAtee, Jeffrey <McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Press Inquiry

From: Martinez, Mary Ann <mamartinez@kprc.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 12:10 PM
To: R6Press <R6Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Press Inquiry

I'm a reporter in Houston, covering the TPC plant explosion in Port Neches. Residents are being warned about asbestos residue following the explosion. I'm seeking information about what residents should do and how big of a health threat this is. Can you please call me ASAP at 832-457-9793. Thank you!

MaryAnn Martinez
KPRC Channel 2 News reporter
832-457-9793