Message

From: Smalley, Bryant [smalley.bryant@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/5/2019 12:54:16 PM
To: Enders, Jhana [Enders.Jhana@epa.gov]
CC: Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]; Adams, Adam [Adams.Adam@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #11

Looping Matt in!

Bryant

From: Smalley, Bryant
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 6:48 AM
To: Enders, Jhana <Enders.Jhana@epa.gov>
Cc: Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Adam Adams <Adams.Adam@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #11

Jhana – here is a summary of the updates overnight. I would recommend we just enter these as one Spot Report in WebEOC, so that it goes out in the Daily Ops.

South 4 Group Fire 19:00 on 120419 Update

As winds shifted from the west, elevated concentrations of 1,3-Butadiene were reported in the community located southwest of the Site (sustained at approximately 0.7 ppm) and the fire station (sustained at approximately 9.0 ppm) located at the southwest boundary of the Site. Measurements were confirmed, and Unified Command notified the local authorities. The County Judge recommended sheltering in place for Port Neches effective from 6:00 pm on December 4, 2019 until 6:00 am on December 5, 2019. Elevated 1,3-Butadiene concentrations continue to be monitored in the community at this time. Unified Command continues to evaluate the situation. The Port Neches- Grove ISD has canceled school for the remainder of the week.

South 4 Group Fire 21:45 on 120419 - Voluntary Evacuation Order

Winds continue toward the west. Air monitoring concentrations for 1,3-Butadiene continue to be measured in the community over the last hour with a maximum of 5.0 ppm, average 1.031 ppm from 27 detections by TPC. Over the last 7.75 hours since 1400 hours, the 1,3-Butadiene measured detections average 1.79 ppm from 196 detections with a maximum of 12.09 ppm in the community. TPC is working to repair/replace the relief valve on the tank (25) and continues suppressing vapors utilizing a water curtain.

The Judge plans to issue a voluntary evacuation order for the city of Port Neches shortly.

South 4 Group Fire 0600 update

Local authority issued and are maintaining the voluntary evacuation order and will continue to assess the status with UC's continuous operations to secure the tank (25) and conducting air monitoring in the community.

From: Smalley, Bryant
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 4:30 AM
To: Enders, Jhana <Enders.Jhana@epa.gov>
Cc: Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #11

I was just planning to add that paragraph to the Spot Report section in Web EOC, so it would show up in the daily Ops. If you want to generate a full HQ Spot Report, I'm OK with that, just make sure we use R6 logo and send with daily ops. Call when you get ready to prep daily ops and we can discuss.

Bryant

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 4, 2019, at 10:26 PM, Enders, Jhana <Enders.Jhana@epa.gov> wrote:

Bryant,

Do you just want me to add your paragraph to the end of EPA actions below? I still have to add all the categories listed (Overview, etc) to create a SPOT report so I either use these or have to re-invent the wheel. The initial SPOT report Matt did only has limited information and reports the initial mobilization.

As winds shifted from the west, elevated concentrations of 1,3-Butadiene were reported in the community located southwest of the Site (sustained at approximately 0.7 ppm) and the fire station (sustained at approximately 9.0 ppm) located at the southwest boundary of the Site. Measurements were confirmed, and Unified Command notified the local authorities. The County Judge recommended sheltering in place for Port Neches effective from 6:00 pm on December 4, 2019 until 6:00 am on December 5, 2019. Elevated 1,3-Butadiene concentrations continue to be monitored in the community at this time. Unified Command continues to evaluate the situation. The Port Neches- Grove ISD has canceled school for the remainder of the week.

Jhana Enders
Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC)
US EPA Region 6
Emergency Response Team (SEDER)
1201 Elm Street
Dallas, TX 75270
214-789-9654 (cell)

From: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 6:27 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #11

This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

<image001.jpg>

EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #11

PORT NECHES, TX, NRC#1264987

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of 12/04/2019 at 7:30 PM

Overview: Early in the morning on November 27, the National Response Center received a report about an explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX. The facility is regulated under the Risk Management Program. At approximately 1400 CST on November 27, a secondary explosion occurred. Residents within a four-mile radius of the facility were ordered to evacuate. At 1000 hours on November 29, the Jefferson County judge rescinded the mandatory evacuation. As of 1830 hours on December 3, the remaining fire self-extinguished in the process area. TPC continues to provide water for vapor suppression at 6,000 to 8,000 gallons per minute across the area.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The Port Neches-Groves Independent School District re-opened on December 3. Air monitoring teams from CTEH, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and EPA have coordinated to assure continuous air monitoring in the area of the schools. CTEH also continues air monitoring efforts in the work area and community. CTEH assessment teams have identified asbestos containing material to the northeast of the facility, up to seven miles away. TPC initiated modeling based on weather conditions to help identify potential impact areas. Teams are responding to reports and recovering material as identified. To date, TPC reports approximately 40 homes have reported debris concerns on their properties to the TPC hotline.

On December 3, 2019 Unified Command received a report documenting all impacted wildlife observed or collected since December 1 (54 fish carcasses were collected downstream of the Site. Additionally, 30 fish, 24 crabs, 1 alligator, 2 birds, and approximately 2,000 shad carcasses were observed downstream of the site).

EPA Actions: EPA is serving as the lead federal agency for response efforts. As of 1500, December 4, EPA is deploying 4 personnel and 8 contractors to Port Neches, and 3 EPA personnel 7 contractors are supporting the response remotely. A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team continued assessments on December 4 along the 201 Canal and Star Lake Canal. The teams included state, federal (USCG) and facility representation. The SCAT team's findings will be developed into a clean-up action plan as determined to be necessary. EPA collected five water samples on the afternoon of December 3 in the affected canal up to the Neches River and one water sample upstream of the incident. The EPA water samples will be analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, Oil and Grease, Glycols, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, and Total Organic Carbon. The EPA water samples were delivered to Houston for analysis on Monday morning. The samples will also be analyzed for PFAS compounds. No additional water sampling was conducted on December 4.

EPA has mobilized an asbestos specialist to advise on asbestos clean-up activities. EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a fly-over of the site on the morning of December 4 and reported no detections. EPA requested onsite support from ATSDR and Texas Department of State Health Services for reviewing data and communicating observations and human health concerns to the community. The ATSDR team will be mobilizing on December 5 to join Unified Command.

A Story Map has been created for the incident and is public at the https://response.epa.gov/south4groupfire website.

Media Interest: Medium

Media Links:

https://kfdm.com/news/local/breaking-tpc-fire-officially-extinguished
https://www.panews.com/2019/12/03/fire-at-tpc-group-port-neches-extinguished/
https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/local/power-city/third-tower-falls-at-tpc-plant-in-port-neches-6-days-after-initial-explosion/502-ba255380-9f1e-4f0a-8cd9-e83c9da4e0c4
https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/local/power-city/update-more-information-on-ruptured-tanks-materials-that-caused-tcp-explosion/502-f96757dc-135c-48cc-b416-c9cac29f6644

The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Pete Oh, Sr. Watch Officer
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-3850
eoc.epahq@epa.gov