Message

From: Acevedo, Janie [Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/29/2019 6:22:26 PM
To: Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]
CC: Adams, Adam [Adams.Adam@epa.gov]; Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]; Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY - NEED APPROVAL/INFORMATION: TPC Group Inc. plant fire in Port Neches

Thank you! Will add them and send forward!

Janie

From: Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 12:20 PM
To: Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>
Cc: Adams, Adam <Adams.Adam@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY - NEED APPROVAL/INFORMATION: TPC Group Inc. plant fire in Port Neches

See my suggested edits below.

From: Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 11:17 AM
To: Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>
Cc: Adams, Adam <Adams.Adam@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY - NEED APPROVAL/INFORMATION: TPC Group Inc. plant fire in Port Neches
Importance: High

Thank you, Adam!
Craig, are you good with this final to go forward?

DRAFT 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.

Please follow this link to see EPA's response activities: response.epa.gov/south4groupfire

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From: Adams, Adam <Adams.Adam@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 11:05 AM
To: Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>
Cc: Loesel, Matthew <loesel.matthew@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Assunto, Carmen

<Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: MEDIA INQUIRY - NEED APPROVAL/INFORMATION: TPC Group Inc. plant fire in Port Neches

Suggest
Last sentence... the State and TPC are also conducting air monitoring...

Since the incident was reported, EPA was activated, is on the ground in UC, is utilizing aspect and has ground air monitoring teams air monitoring in the vicinity and down wind community.
Thanks Janie

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 29, 2019, at 10:55 AM, Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov> wrote:

Bloomberg Inquiry – It was sent to HQ and R6 Press. We will coordinate our response w/HQ.

QUESTION: Good morning! I wanted to check in on the incident at the TPC Group Inc. facility in Port Neches.
We are obviously in frequent contact with TCEQ, which has warned about elevated levels of VOCs that can cause eye, nose and throat irritation, among other effects.
Does region 6 have anything to say about the incident? Can you describe the EPA response -- ie, are any EPA staff on site or otherwise assisting in monitoring/response?
The facility has received several priority violation notices from EPA, so of course if there's context we should know about the site's enforcement history you want to offer on background or otherwise, we'd welcome that.

DRAFT 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 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. State and local responders are conducting handheld monitoring and collecting data downwind and in the community.
Please follow this link to see EPA's response activities: response.epa.gov/south4groupfire

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From: Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 10:51 AM
To: R6Press <R6Press@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: TPC Group Inc. plant fire in Port Neches

Good morning!

I wanted to check in on the incident at the TPC Group Inc. facility in Port Neches.

We are obviously in frequent contact with TCEQ, which has warned about elevated levels of VOCs that can cause eye, nose and throat irritation, among other effects.

Does region 6 have anything to say about the incident? Can you describe the EPA response -- ie, are any EPA staff on site or otherwise assisting in monitoring/response?

The facility has received several priority violation notices from EPA, so of course if there's context we should know about the site's enforcement history you want to offer on background or othrwise, we'd welcome that.

Thanks,
Jen.

Jennifer A. Dlouhy
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