TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
December 5, 2019 1500 Update

Incident Management Objectives:
Objective 1: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 4: Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

Objective 5: Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the TPC facility.

Objective 6: Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the TPC facility.

Objective 7: Maintain open communication with Regional management.

Incident Overview:
On November 27, 2019, a report was received from the National Response Center about an explosion at a facility in Port Neches, TX.

A second explosion occurred at approximately 1400 on November 27, 2019. Residents within a four-mile radius of the site were ordered to evacuate. The evacuation was lifted at 1000 on November 29, 2019.

Executive Overview:
- Unified Command continues to run a 24-hour operational period: 0600 to 0600.
- On December 4, 2019 at approximately 1600, TPC paused the application of water to Tank 25 to evaluate the structural integrity of the tank and associated ladders to plan changing the damaged release valves. At approximately 1730, concentration exceeding the action level for 1,3-butadiene were reported in the community (highest reported reading of 12.09 ppm). The wind has primarily been out of the north and north-west, pushing any fugitive and/or residual emissions to the south and south-east of the facility.
- On December 4, 2019 at 1800, Port Neches Fire Chief issued a shelter in place for the City of Port Neches. At 2200, Jefferson County Judge issued a voluntary evacuation order for the City of Port Neches. The voluntary evacuation order was lifted at 1230 on December 5, 2019.

- Schools in Port Neches-Groves ISD will be out of session on Thursday December 5, 2019 and Friday December 6, 2019.
- On December 5, 2019 at 0945, TPC closed the release valve on Tank 25. The concentrations of 1,3-Butadiene in the community reduced to an average of 0.168 ppm (highest concentration at 0.230 ppm) in the hour following the mitigation of the release valve.
- The ATSDR mobilized on December 5, 2019 to join Unified Command to provide on-site support for reviewing data and communicating observations and human health concerns to the community. Texas DSHS will provide offsite support by coordinating with the local officials and ATSDR.
- CTEH has conducted 384 readings in the work area for 1,3-butadiene since 1430 on December 3, 2019. As of approximately 1430 hours on December 4, 2019, 107 detections were recorded in the work area with a maximum reading of 13.6 ppm.
- CTEH has conducted 1,562 readings for 1,3-butadiene in the community since 1430 on December 3, 2019. As of approximately 1430 hours on December 4, 2019, 43 detections were recorded in the community with a maximum reading of 0.47 ppm.
- ASPECT conducted a fly-over of the site on the morning of December 5, 2019 and reported no detections. ASPECT is flying again at 1400 hrs.
- As of 0600 on December 5, 2019, Outfall 201 continued to overflow as the water applied to Tank 25 collects and drains to this outfall. TPC utilized two pumps to divert the water towards water collection area on Block 6 on the site.
- TPC has placed 5500' of 18" hard boom and 8350' of absorbent boom along the downstream path to the Neches River. As of December 5, 2019, the furthest extent of visible sheen was 1.3 miles upstream from the Neches River, and that has not changed.
- On December 5, 2019, EPA collected 5 surface water samples in the affected canal up to the Neches River and 1 surface water sample upstream of the incident.
- TPC continues responding to reports and recovering debris material. To date, TPC reports approximately 41 homes have reported debris concerns on their properties to the TPC hotline.
- A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team continued assessments on December 5, 2019 along the 201 Canal and Star Lake Canal. The teams included state and facility representation. The SCAT team's findings will be developed into a clean-up action plan as determined to be necessary.
- As of December 5, 2019, there are four EPA personnel onsite supporting the response.