**TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update**
**Port Neches, Texas**
**November 28, 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 in a four-mile radius of the site have been ordered to evacuate.

**Executive Overview:**

- Due to the mandatory 4-mile radius evacuation, the Command Post remains at the Holiday Inn Suites in Beaumont, TX.
- Incident is currently operating in a 24-hour operational period: 0600 to 0600.
- The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is still without power. TPC is currently in the process of connecting generators on-site to power the pumps and transport the firefighting water from the storage ponds to the treatment plant.

- The current estimated rate of water use for fire suppression is 50,000,000 gallons per day (~36,000 gallons per minute).
- The WWTP capacity for storage has been reached and fire water is flowing into a permitted area owned in conjunction with Huntsman. Tactics are being developed to address a sheen which was seen in the canal leading to this area.
- The main compounds of concern are Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), and 1,3 Butadiene, although other chemicals may be involved. The air monitoring action levels (AL) for VOCs is 5.0 parts per million (ppm). The action level for Butadiene is 0.5 ppm.
- Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft did not conduct monitoring due to a low cloud ceiling November 28, 2019 but will attempt to conduct monitoring again on November 29, 2019.
- TCEQ and EPA air monitoring have not reported any detections over action levels during the last operational period. The compounds being monitored for include; 1,3 butadiene, benzene, VOCs, Carbon Monoxide, Oxygen, Hydrogen Sulfide, Lower Explosive Limit and particulates.
- On behalf of TPC, CTEH air monitoring teams continue to collect air monitoring data throughout the evacuation zone. CTEH air monitoring teams are reporting readings below the action level for both VOCs and Butadiene.
- An NBC national news team will accompany a TCEQ air monitoring team this afternoon.
- A Clean Harbors Incident Management Assistance Team has been activated and is expected to be on site this afternoon.
- Three manned firetrucks and 7 unmanned hose monitors are currently actively fighting the fire.
- The Response.gov site has been updated with images from the fire, the 11/27/19 ASPECT flight path and data summary, and a link to the TCEQ site for the TPC response.

Resources as of 1500 on November 28, 2019

| | EPA | Contractors |
|---|---|---|
| Port Neches | 3 | 9 |
| Dallas | 3 | 3 |