TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
December 4, 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.
- Schools in Port Neches-Groves ISD remained open today, December 4, 2019. Air monitoring teams from CTEH, TCEQ, and EPA have coordinated to assure continuous Community air monitoring in the area of the schools and respond with additional monitoring team resources when readings above the action level are detected. Unified Command has determined that a sustained reading of 1.5 parts per million (ppm) or higher of 1,3-butadiene for 10 minutes in the school area will be an actionable level that will require schools to shelter in place.
- As of 1830 hours on December 3, 2019, the remaining fire self-extinguished in the process area. TPC continues to provide water for vapor suppression at 6,000 to 8,000

GPM across the area. Approximately every 2 hours, water is utilized to cool tanks in block 10. 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.

- 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.
- Unified Command has given permission for fluorine free foam use if necessary, for vapor suppression in emergency situations. As of the morning of December 4, 2019, TPC reports none of the new foam has been utilized for vapor suppression. TPC has staged 6 totes of foam for vapor suppression. The Safety Data Sheets for the foam initially used on November 27, 2019 confirmed that the approximate 1,320 gallons did contain PFAS compounds.
- On December 3, 2019 at 1430, Outfall 201 began overflowing by 1 inch. As of 1230, Outfall 201 is overflowing by 4 inches. TPC will utilize additional pumps to increase recycling and reduce the water level to prevent overflowing from the outfall.
- TPC has placed 5500' of 18" hard boom and 8350' of absorbent boom along the downstream path to the Neches River. As of December 4, 2019, the furthest extent of visible sheen was 1.3 miles upstream from the Neches River, and that has not changed.
- A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team continued assessments on December 4, 2019 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 did not conduct any water sampling on December 4, 2019.
- The EPA water samples were delivered to Houston for analysis on Monday morning, with a requested 24-hour turnaround time to two laboratories Test America and ALS. ALS will ship samples to be analyzed for PFAS compounds by Method 8327 at their laboratory in Holland, Michigan.
- On December 3, 2019 Unified Command received a report documenting all impacted wildlife observed or collected since December 1, 2019 (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). The Wildlife Hotline has been established for the incident and distributed to response personnel. The Department of Interior, US Fish and Wildlife, and Texas Parks and Wildlife are updated daily.
- ASPECT conducted a fly-over of the site on the morning of December 4, 2019 and reported no detections. ASPECT is flying again at 1400 hrs.
- A Story Map has been created for the incident and is public at the [HYPERLINK "https://response.epa.gov/south4groupfire"] website.
- 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.
- EPA has mobilized an asbestos specialist to advise on asbestos clean-up activities.
- Based on air monitoring detections near the middle school adjacent to the site the morning of December 3, 2019, EPA requested onsite support from ATSDR and Texas DSHS for reviewing data and communicating observations and human health concerns to the community. The ATSDR team will be mobilizing on December 5, 2019 to join Unified Command.

Resources as of 1500 on December 4, 2019

	EPA	Contractors
Port Neches	4	8
Off site	3	7