TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
November 30, 2019 0700 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.
- At 0200 hours on November 30, 2019, all fires in Block 5 were extinguished. Three actively fed fires are still burning in the Block 10 area.

- The current estimated rate of water use for fire suppression is approximately 31,000 gpm. Of that water use, 7,000 gpm is recycled water, leaving a net total of 24,000 gpm of freshwater use.
- The WWTP continues pumping firewater from the storage ponds into the WWTP. The current pumping rate is 6,900 gallons per minute (gpm).
- To date, four partial totes of foam have been used, the facility has additional foam on hand for vapor suppression and firefighting, however the plan is not to use it unless necessary. Unified Command has given permission for foam use if necessary, for safety reasons. The OSC received and is reviewing the Safety Data Sheets for each type of foam used and remaining on site.
- Firefighting water overtopped the tank containment berm. The water is discharging to the "201 Canal" which leads to a permitted containment discharge area. Due to the sheen observed in the 201 Canal, the facility's Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO) has placed absorbent boom every 50-100 feet along the canal. The sheen has not made it to the permitted containment discharge area.
- EPA will conduct water sampling of the affected canal up to the Neches River beginning November 30, 2019.
- TCEQ and EPA air monitoring did not report any detections over public action levels for 1,3 butadiene, benzene, VOCs, Carbon Monoxide, Oxygen, Hydrogen Sulfide, and Explosive Limit during the last operational period. What about 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 public action levels for both VOCs and Butadiene.
- Will ASPECT be able to fly today or will weather prevent?
- A Story Map has been created for the incident and is public at the [HYPERLINK "https://response.epa.gov/south4groupfire"] website.

- ~~TPC hired Clean Harbors to address collect, dispose of, measure, document, and account for all waste streams and contain and recover the heaviest concentrations of free-floating product.~~
- ~~At 2355 on November 29, 2019, one of the two pumps, being used to pump firefighting water from the storage pond to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), was discontinued in operations due to a malfunctioning seal. As a result, flow rate was reduced to approximately 4,000 gallons per minute (gpm). A replacement pump of the same type and pumping capacity was installed and turned on at 0407.~~
- ~~At 0240 on November 30, 2019, a fixed diesel-powered firefighting water supply pump began leaking lube oil in a containment area and was shut off. An electrical pump was immediately powered on to replace the diesel-powered pump. The rated flow-rate for the electric pump is 2,500 gpm, which is the same as the diesel pump.~~
- ~~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.~~

Resources as of 0700 on November 30, 2019

	EPA	Contractors
Port Neches	3	9
Off site	3	6