TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
November 28, 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.

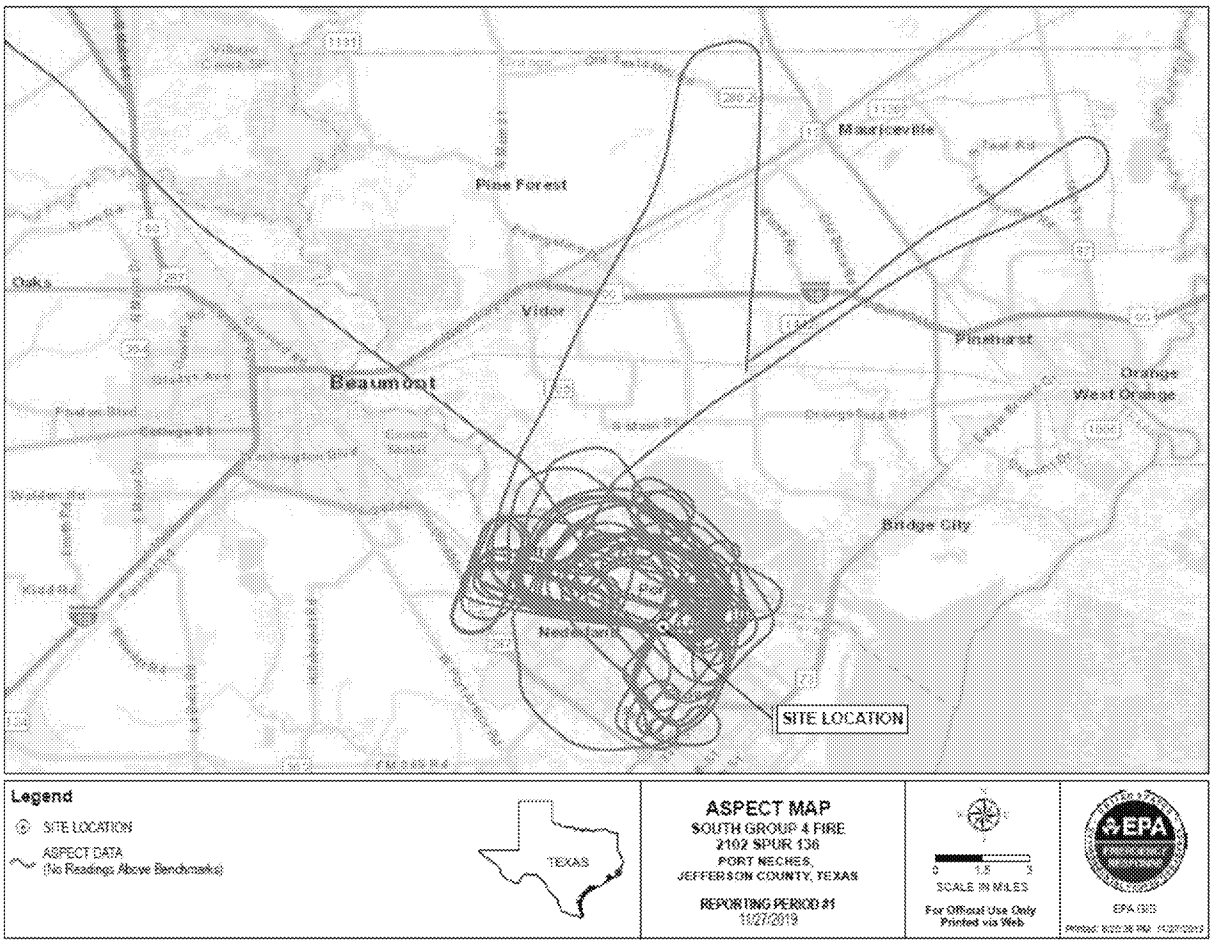
A second explosion occurred at approximately 1400 on November 27, 2019. Residents in a four-mile radius of the site have been ordered to evacuate.

Executive Overview:

- On-scene Coordinator (OSC) Rouse arrived on-scene to assist OSC Adams at 2215 on November 27, 2019. OSC Loesel is en route to the site today.
- Due to the mandatory 4-mile radius evacuation, Unified Command was forced to re-locate the Command Post at the Holiday Inn Suites in Beaumont, TX on November 27, 2019.
- Incident is currently operating in a 24-hour operational period: 0600 to 0600.

- The wastewater treatment plant is still without power. TPC is currently in the process of bringing generators on-site to power the pumps and transport the firefighting water from the storage ponds to the treatment plant.
- Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and Perfluorooctanoate acid (PFOA) currently do not appear to pose a significant threat since only four totes of foaming product were used during firefighting operations in comparison to the amount of water that was used. The current estimated rate of water use for fire suppression is 50,000,000 gallons per day.
- 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 conducted three flights on November 27, 2019. ASPECT did not report any detections from three overflights on November 27, 2019.
- EPA air monitoring teams have had no detections of VOCs.
- On behalf of TPC, CTEH air monitoring teams are collecting air monitoring data throughout the evacuation zone. CTEH air monitoring teams have been reporting readings below the action level for both VOCs and Butadiene.
- TCEQ air monitoring has not reported any detections over action levels in the last operational period.
- A [HYPERLINK "file:///C:\\Users\\edelgado\\AppData\\Local\\Microsoft\\Windows\\INetCache\\Content.Outlook\\IX111EOH\\response.epa.gov\\south4groupfire"] has been set up on epa.esponse.gov. OSC Adams will work with Public Information staff to make response activities and sampling results available to the public on the site.
- Information is being provided to the Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment for dissemination to environmental justice contacts in the area.

Resources as of 0700 on November 28, 2019

	EPA	Contractors
Port Neches	2	9
Dallas	3	0

Additional Information: ASPECT Flight Path