TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
December 3, 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 reopened today, December 3, 2019. Air monitoring teams from CTEH, TCEQ, and EPA have coordinated remain in the area of the schools and respond with additional monitoring team resources when readings above the action level were detected.
- One fire is still burning in the process area. TPC will continue to provide water suppression to the process area until the fire extinguishes itself. Smoke and particulate matter is low today. The wind has primarily been out of the east and south-southeast today, pushing the plume to the west and north-northwest of the facility.

- CTEH has conducted 1380 readings for 1,3-butadiene since 1500 on December 2, 2019. As of approximately 1230 hours, 59 detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 5.1 ppm which was in the work area. Twenty-eight of the detections were in the community, and three of which were sustained and exceeded the action level 0.5 ppm (1.1 ppm – 1.35 ppm). TCEQ air monitoring roaming ground units did confirm 1.22 ppm with a maximum of 1.32 ppm. EPA, TCEQ, and TPC discussed the need to establish a tiered response effort for the schools neighboring the facility in the event butadiene is detected above the UC action level of 0.5 ppm. TPC will be drafting up their proposal for concurrence.
- Unified Command has given permission for fluorine free foam use if necessary, for vapor suppression in emergency situations. As of the morning of December 3, 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.
- The current estimated rate of water use for fire suppression is approximately 14,000 gpm. Approximately 7,000 gpm of the water is recycled.
- There has continued to be no discharge of water from the 201 Outfall. The last discharge of water occurred at 1700 hours on November 30, 2019. This has reduced the water level in the affected canal.
- TPC has placed 5500' of 18'' hard boom and 8350' of absorbent boom along the downstream path to the Neches River. As of December 1, 2019, the furthest extent of the sheen was 1.3 miles upstream from the Neches River, and that has not changed. Sheen has been observed up to the Port Neches/Atlantic Road approximately 2 miles from the outfall.
- A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team continued assessments on December 3, 2019 along the 201 Canal and Star Lake Canal. The teams included state, federal (USCG) and facility representation. The SCAT team findings will be developed into a clean-up action plan as determined to be necessary.
- It is expected that EPA will collect 5 water samples on the afternoon of December 3, 2019 in the affected canal up to the Neches River and 1 water sample upstream of the incident.
- The EPA water samples will be analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, Oil and Grease, Glycols, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, and Total Organic Carbon, and delivered to Houston for analysis on Monday morning, with a requested 24-hour turnaround time.
- The EPA water samples will also be analyzed for three specific PFAS compounds that are predominantly a part of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF): Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid, Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, and Perfluorooctanoic acid. The samples will be analyzed for two methods: EPA Method 537 Drinking Water and EPA Method 8327. Samples analyzed for Method 537 will be delivered to Houston with a requested 24-hour turnaround time and those analyzed for Method 8327 will be delivered to Holland, Michigan, with a requested 24-hour turnaround time.
- Unified Command has not received any reports of impacted wildlife on December 3, 2019. Following TPC activation, Wildlife Response Services were onsite on December 1, 2019. A 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 briefed daily and were notified.
- ASPECT conducted a fly-over of the site on the morning of December 3, 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.

Resources as of 1500 on December 3, 2019

	EPA	Contractors

Port Neches	3	8
Off site	3	7