TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
December 2, 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.
- The Port Neches-Groves ISD will be closed on Monday, December 2, 2019.
- As of 1500 hours today, a few fires continue to burn. TPC will continue to provide water suppression to the process area until the fires extinguish themselves. Smoke and particulate matter is low today. The wind has primarily been out of the north and northwest today, pushing the plume to the south and southeast.

- At 2222 on December 1, 2019, CTEH air monitoring teams began picking up sustained readings of butadiene at 0.79 parts per million (ppm) at the intersection of Highway 366 and SPUR 136. The county judge was notified. In addition, there were particulate matter (PM) readings of 0.338. Community action levels for PM are 0.137 whereas work zone action levels are 0.351.
- In response to the instantaneous 0.79 ppm readings for butadiene, TCEQ air monitoring teams were dispatched to the intersection of highway 366 and SPUR 136. TCEQ reported sustained readings of 0.19 ppm for butadiene between 2250 and 2300 along with odors at the intersection. Between 2305 and 2320, TCEQ reported sustained readings of 0.35 ppm for butadiene along with a strong odor. It is believed that the exceedances may have been caused by the positioning of the water sprayers, which caused too much extinguishing of the flames and allowed unburnt butadiene emissions.
- At 1335 on December 2, 2019, an intoxicated citizen had driven through one of the barricades and ran over one of the firewater supply lines at the main gate of the TPC facility. The individual was arrested by local police. There was no impact to waterflow.
- At 0340, it was reported that the outfall at Pine Street still has sheen and Clean Harbor is skimming. The outfall at Orchard only has patchy sheen remaining and still improving. At Terra Club, there is old accumulation that has not been cleaned yet.
- At 1800 on 12/2/2019, CTEH will no longer have law enforcement to restrict access to the exclusion zone. CTEH is currently in the process of creating a contract to obtain enforcement to help restrict access.
- At around 0200 hours on December 2, 2019, the water recycling pump for the block 6 pond began to lose suction. The pump was shut off to investigate for any clogs. A dead alligator was discovered in the pump. Fish and wildlife have been notified of the incident.
- CTEH has conducted XXX readings for 1,3-butadiene on December 2, 2019. As of approximately 1330 hours, XX detections were recorded with a maximum reading of XXX ppm. The detections all occurred in the work area, and not in the community.
- Unified Command has given permission for fluorine free foam use if necessary, for vapor suppression in emergency situations. TPC plans to stage 6 totes of foam for vapor suppression tomorrow. The Safety Data Sheets for the foam initially used on November 27, 2019 confirmed that the approximate 1,320 gallons did contain PFOS compounds.
- The current estimated rate of water use for fire suppression is approximately 9,000 gpm. Approximately 3,000 gpm of the water use is recycled.
- As of 0310 on December 2, 2019, the pump for the WWTP was discontinued since the water level in the block 6 pump was getting too low.
- As of 1700 on November 30, 2019, there is no longer a discharge of water from the 201 Outfall. This has reduced the water level in the affected canal.
- TPC has placed 4000' of 18" hard boom and 5300' 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. Sheen has been observed up to the Port Neches/Atlantic Road approximately 2 miles from the outfall.
- Unified Command received a report of approximately 100 – 300 small dead fish at the canal waterfall upstream of the Port Neches Atlantic Road Bridge at 1000 hours on December 1, 2019. TCEQ has activated their Surface Water Quality Management Team (SWQMT) for water sampling. EPA's water samples were taken upstream and downstream of this site. TPC has contacted Wildlife Response Services to respond to the incident. The Department of Interior, US Fish and Wildlife, and Texas Parks and Wildlife are briefed daily and were notified of the observed fish kill.
- Samples were delivered to ALS Laboratory in Houston for analysis on Monday morning, with a requested 24-hour turnaround time on all analyses, except for SVOCs which has a 72-hour turnaround time.
- ASPECT conducted a fly-over of the site on the afternoon December 1, 2019. ASPECT reported a reading of isobutylene of 1ppm at approximately the intersection of Orchard

Road and Highway 366. No detections were recorded. ASPECT conducted a fly-over of the site on the morning of December 2, 2019. ASPECT is flying again at 1500 and will attempt to confirm that reading.

- 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 2, 2019

	EPA	Contractors
Port Neches	3	9
Off site	3	6