TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
December 6, 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.
- On December 6, 2019, TPC reported two small residual fires at the Site. The fires are expected to burn for 12 to 24 hours.
- On December 6, 2019, TPC reported that five radiation sources are present on the site. Only one of the five sources (2 millicurie) is located in the impacted area and has been confirmed to be secured in a closed source container.
- Schools in Port Neches-Groves ISD were out of session on Friday December 6, 2019 and plan to reopen on Monday December 9, 2019.
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) team and EPA met with the Port Neches-Grove ISD to discuss human health concerns prior to reopening the schools next week.

- On December 6, 2019, EPA observed debris collection and dust sampling operations conducted by CTEH at a commercial facility and a residence about two miles southwest of the Site.
- CTEH has conducted 441 readings in the work area for 1,3-butadiene since 1430 on December 5, 2019. As of approximately 1430 hours on December 6, 2019, 11 detections were recorded in the work area with a maximum reading of 1.6 ppm.
- CTEH has conducted 1,587 readings for 1,3-butadiene in the community since 1430 on December 5, 2019. As of approximately 1430 hours on December 6, 2019, 4 detections were recorded in the community with a maximum reading of 0.7 ppm.
- ASPECT conducted a fly-over of the site at noon on December 6, 2019 and reported no detections. ASPECT is not scheduled for a second flight for today.
- On December 6, 2019, EPA collected 5 surface water samples in the affected canal up to the Neches River and 1 surface water sample upstream of the incident.
- The surface water samples collected on November 30, 2019 and December 1, 2019 were analyzed for per- and polyfluoroakyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), total organic carbon (TOC), glycols, and oil and grease (O&G). The results from the sampling events were compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Surface Water Quality Standards (WQS), or to TCEQ Texas Risk Reduction Program surface water protective concentration levels (PCLs), if a WQS was not available for a chemical.
    - On November 30, 2019, the surface water sample collected at TPC-01 exceeded the PCL for methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) and the surface water sample collected at TPC-02 exceeded the PCL for benzene and for MTBE. No PCLs were exceeded for the samples collected from the Neches River.
    - On December 1, 2019, the surface water sample collected at TPC-01 and TPC-02 exceeded the PCL for MTBE. No PCLs were exceeded for the samples collected from the Neches River.
- TPC continues responding to reports and recovering debris from the explosions. To date, TPC reports approximately 46 homes have reported debris concerns on their properties to the TPC hotline.
- A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team continued assessments on December 6, 2019 along the 201 Canal and Star Lake Canal. The teams included state and facility representation. SCAT Coordinator working to develop a Unified Command Cleanup transition and endpoint and final assessment protocol Plan for Divisions A-E.
- The next Management Update Report will be issued on Monday, December 9, 2019.

Resources as of 1500 on December 6, 2019

	EPA	Contractors
Port Neches	4	8
Off site	3	7