EOC Daily Emergency Management Report

Date: 01/22/2014
Time: 11:15 EST
Report No: 012-15

Alerts & Warnings
FEMA National Watch Center – Watch/Steady State
National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) – No Current Alerts
Continuity of Operations (COOP) COGCON Level is 4
EPA HQ at Level 6 (Steady State)

EPA Headquarters Activities
The ASPECT (Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology) aircraft is located in Addison, TX and is operational and available for deployment.

The Portable High Throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification Systems (PHILIS) located in Edison, NJ and in Castle Rock, CO are operational and available for deployment.

The ERT Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) (Las Vegas, Edison, and RTP) and Mobile Command & HazMat Truck (Erlanger and Las Vegas) are available for deployment.

Significant National Weather
Severe Weather: Moderate to heavy snow will continue this morning across coastal southern New England, where highest snow accumulations of 12-18 inches are expected. Wind gusts of 25-35 mph will cause areas of blowing and drifting snow and reduced visibilities; locally stronger gusts to 50 mph will cause blizzard conditions in southeast MA this morning. Gusty winds combined with cold temperatures will produce dangerously cold wind chills of -20 to -40 degrees in Ohio Valley, Central Appalachians and interior New England this morning.

Significant Flood Outlook: There is significant river flooding occurring today in portions of South Carolina and Georgia. Flooding is also possible in northern Illinois and Indiana.

Critical Fire Weather: There is no critical fire weather forecast for today throughout the U.S. However, Red Flag Warnings have been issued for the San Francisco Bay area due to the presence of low relative humidity values and gusty offshore winds.

Tornado Weather: There is a less than a 2-percent chance of tornado activity in all regions today.

Earthquake Activity: Nothing to report.

Tropical Weather: There is no tropical cyclone activity impacting any lands at this time.

Report of Incident Notifications

Region 4, Nuclear Alert, Harris Nuclear Plant, Cary, NC

On January 18 at 10:16 EST at the Harris Nuclear Plant in Cary, NC, a 480 VAC safety- related fire occurred in a switchgear room. The plant reduced power and tripped the reactor manually. The fire was extinguished when the 480 VAC bus was de-energized. There was no release or potential release of radiation. At 11:30 EST, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters Operation notified HQ EPA and other agencies of the event which was classified as an "Alert", indicating that a safety system was not functioning properly. At 16:42 EST on 1/18, the Alert was terminated by US NRC. An inspection had been completed leaving the plant shutdown and in a stable condition. There was no impact to the safe operation of the plant or to public safety.

Region 3, Solvent Contamination, Long Brothers Cleaners, Washington, DC

On January 17, a Region 3 OSC visited Long Brothers, an active dry cleaner, in Washington DC, which is next door to a child development center, to conduct environmental monitoring for dry cleaning solvents (including perchloroethylene). This visit was a follow up to a preliminary assessment and site screening inspection conducted by District of Columbia Department of the Environment (DDOE) at the site in May 2012 and September 2013, which confirmed historic releases of solvents resulting in concentrations in sub-slab soil, soil vapor, and indoor air that may exceed the EPA's recommended risk exposure levels. Region 3 and DDOE were not able to access the site until after the owner of the child development center recently contacted DC Councilman Barry's office, who consulted with DDOE and talked with the site owner. Results of air sampling from Summa canisters are expected in 7-10 days. A handheld instrument detected elevated readings of volatile compounds in the basement. On 1/18, the OSC facilitated air monitoring activities at the child development facility by MD Civil Support Team (CST) using a mobile GC/MS. CST results are preliminary pending quality control review. DDOE has arranged for temporary relocation of the child development/daycare to a nearby facility, effective upon re-opening on Tuesday, 1/21.

Region 5, Rubber Facility Fire, Waynesfield, OH

On January 20 at 18:30 local time, a fire broke out at a rubber manufacturing facility that makes rubber mud flaps in Waynesfield, OH, located on a dairy farm in rural Auglaize County. Wapakoneta EMA and several fire departments responded and firefighters identified a drum of sodium permanganate and were thus refrained from using foam. The building was destroyed during the fire which created a large smoke plume. The Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) provided smoke plume maps. A contractor contained firefighting water run-off from entering Muchinippi Creek. Ohio EPA was on scene and requested US EPA assistance. A Region 5 OSC and START contractor were deployed to the scene just before midnight January 21 and they monitored air upwind/downwind and within the plume, water quality upstream & downstream, and fire water run-off collected in diversion trenches. The fire was extinguished and fire crews left the scene at approximately 0500 hrs EST January 21 with a smoke plume no longer leaving the site. Remaining concerns are accumulated run-off, and any remaining hazardous waste within the building site. The OSC, Ohio EPA and START will return to the site at 1200hrs on January 21 to re-assess the situation._

Update: Region 3, Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Report as of 1400 January 21, 2014

On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for 10 counties in West Virginia after 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM) leaked from a tank and through a secondary containment area at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the West Virginia American Water (WVAW) Treatment Plant. West Virginia water authorities issued a "Do Not Use Water Notice" for 10 counties telling them not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing, which impacted 100,000 customers (300,000 people).

EPA Region 3 Water Division reports that the WVAW has lifted drinking water restrictions in all water distribution zones with some exceptions. WVAW test results show that MCHM readings in the plant's raw water and finished water have been non-detectable since Monday evening, January 13. The WVAW has been sampling and flushing throughout the water distribution system and report that a majority of the samples collected in the distribution sample are non- detect for MCHM.

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) continues to monitor the plume in the Ohio River which was predicted to arrive at Mt Vernon, Indiana at 18:30 PM, 1/20. Up river concentrations at Louisville KY peaked at 3.5 ppb.

Region 3 OSCs report that the focus of site operations continues to be controlling the on-site water and collecting contaminated water/product from the ditches and the collection trench. The collection trench was extended to capture contaminated water from the seep, preventing the water from reaching the river.

Runoff water that is flowing to the site will be collected in a hand dug sump along the road to keep water from reaching the property. The collected water will either be diverted or collected in tanker trucks to send to a wastewater treatment plant.

The facility continues to maintain the boom on the Elk River and is reporting no odor or sheen on the absorbent booms. A vacuum truck is now being used along the slope to vacuum contaminated surface soil and water. Soil removal is delayed due to the cold temperatures and snow fall.

Installation of wireless cameras was scheduled for 1/20 at both the Poca facility and the Freedom Industries tank farm to provide security and enable immediate response if additional discharge or compromise of the tanks on site occurs. The Poca facility was to receive more double-walled tanks to contain water from the contaminated site, but the Chapter 11 bankruptcy court hearing has delayed shipment of these tankers, until after the 1/21 hearing. If the facility is unable to proceed with Chapter 11 filing for reorganization, then it will have to file Chapter 7 and discontinue the removal work.

The remediation contractor, Civil Environmental Consultants, has begun to work on a plan for the site. The cost or scope of remediation work will not be cost prohibitive due to deterioration of the product and the clay base under the site that kept the chemical from infiltrating deep into the ground.

On 1/17 at 18:19 EST, CDC posted a media advisory on their website explaining how the screening level for MCHM was established: http://emergency.cdc.gov/chemical/MCHM/westvirginia2014/index.asp

ATSDR was on site on 1/19 to consult with EPA and WVDEP. The WV Emergency Operations Center transitioned to a Partial Activation on 1/19. Media interest remains high.

On 1/21, Freedom Industries reported to EPA that another material (PPH- a proprietary mixture of polyglycol ethers) was part of the chemical release that occurred on January 9, 2014. PPH represented a relatively small percentage (approximately 5%) of the total volume in the tank. According to CDC/ATSDR, the reported toxicity of this material appears to be lower than the toxicity of MCHM,

based on the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer. CDC has prepared a public information statement addressing any health concerns of PPH.

There were 48 epaosc.org websites created and/or updated during this reporting period (1/17/14-1/22/14).

Exercises/Predeployments
There are no exercises or predeployments today.

EPA Region 3 offices are closed today due to the winter weather.

Regional Daily Ops Status Report
Reported activities primarily represent NRC notifications with some State-level and other notifications to Regional Phone Duty Officers.

Reported Activities (1/17/14-1/22/14)

Region	Oil	Hazmat	Radiation	Other	Total
Region 1	5	0	0	1	6
Region 2	6	1	0	3	10
Region 3	9	3	0	1	13
Region 4	35	5	1	5	46
Region 5	11	1	0	9	21
Region 6	11	9	0	9	29
Region 7	5	1	0	3	9
Region 8	2	2	0	0	4
Region 9	49	20	0	33	102
Region 10	18	2	0	1	21
Total	151	44	1	65	261

Note: There were 13 unclassified events in the Hotline Log

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

MaryBeth Sheridan, Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850 202-564-8729 (fax)
mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov