Hurricane Harvey 2017
9/17/2017 – 0700 CDT Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- EPA issued a news release highlighting Administrator Scott Pruitt's visit to Houston, Texas on September 15, 2017, to review the Agency's response efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Administrator Pruitt toured the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site and met with state and federal officials. Administrator Pruitt also participated in an aerial tour of additional Superfund Sites including Patrick Bayou, U.S. Oil Recovery, Highlands Acid Pits, French Unlimited, Brio Refining, and Dixie Oil Processors.

- Joint EPA and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) field observation teams continue to observe debris staging and landfill operations within the hurricane impacted counties in Texas to ensure best practices and program requirements are being met. Currently, FEMA estimates debris to total 16.5 million cubic yards. (This is revised from yesterday's report which was a misunderstanding of what FEMA reported). Observations began in Houston on September 14, 2017; observations will begin in Corpus Christi tomorrow, September 18, 2017. A federal Debris Management Taskforce has been established at the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Austin and EPA is a member of the Taskforce.

- EPA completed sampling of all 34 Texas Superfund sites potentially impacted by the storm, September 15, 2017. EPA has released 15 post-hurricane Superfund site summaries based on preliminary data on the www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey website.

- EPA's dive team finished collecting samples at the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site on September 15, 2017 and demobilized from the site yesterday. Results of the analyses will be used to ensure the temporary cap of the site did not release contaminants. The responsible party continues to repair the armored layer of the cap.

- All three branches of Unified Command continue recovering and staging orphan containers for proper disposal. The Corpus Christi Branch is transitioning the remaining open sites to the appropriate TCEQ Regional Office for closeout. All containers on the staging pad will be transferred to the Houston Branch by September 18, 2017, before being shipped for disposal. The Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch is projected to complete recovery activities within 10 days, and the Houston Branch within 20 days.

- Community Liaison teams continue to provide information regarding returning to flooded areas and handling of house-hold waste in the counties of Aransas, San Patricio, Nueces,

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Wharton, Harris, Jasper, Newton, Montgomery, Fort Bend, Liberty, Brazoria, Galveston, Beaumont, Port Arthur, Jefferson, Orange, Chambers, Matagorda, and Baytown. The teams are listening to concerns from the community, associated with the recovery effort, and transferring this information back to the JFO to the appropriate ESF contacts.

- The TCEQ is requesting FEMA to increase EPA's ESF-10 Mission Assignment by $8.3 million in stages. Once fully approved, this will bring the total funding for assessment and response to $18.3 million.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- EPA issued No Action Assurance Extensions to TCEQ on September 15, 2017, on Loading of Tank Fuel Trucks at Petroleum Distribution Terminals, Landing Roofs on Gasoline Storage Vessels, and the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems. The extensions were provided until September 22, 2017, at 11:59 PM CDT. The No Action Assurance letters are available to the public on www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey .

REFINERIES / FUEL WAIVERS

- The multi-state fuel waiver expired September 15, 2017.

- On September 13, 2017, EPA extended the waiver of certain requirements of the Clean Air Act for the State of Texas until October 1, 2017:

    - The Texas Low Emission Diesel (TxLED) requirements was waived in all TxLED Counties to minimize or prevent problems with the supply of TxLED. The EPA will allow regulated parties to use federally compliant 15 part per million Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) in a 110-county area of Texas.

    - EPA is waiving the 7.8 psi Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) standard that applies in Eastern Texas State Implementation Plan (SIP) RVP Counties until the end of the summer "high ozone" season on October 1, 2017.

    - EPA is waiving the federal Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) requirements in Texas. Under this waiver, EPA will allow regulated parties to produce, sell or distribute conventional winter gasoline in any RFG covered area within Texas. This will also prohibit any person from combining any RFG BOB with any other gasoline, blendstock, or oxygenate, unless certain conditions are met.

- EPA issued a No Action Assurance for the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems in Texas Related to Hurricane Harvey on September 1, 2017. EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue enforcement for violations of the vapor recovery requirements for fuel loading and unloading under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart XX and Part 63 Subparts, R, Y, CC, BBBBBB, and 30 Texas Administrative Code sections 115.212, .214.

- The Internal Revenue Service red dye fuel waiver covers the entire state of Texas

- On September 15, 2017, a No Action Assurance was issued for the import of generators by the Yamaha Motor Corporation that will be donated to communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Irma in Florida. The generators are currently labeled to meet Canada's requirements for sale with respect to emission information, not the United States', thus their import would be a violation of EPA's Clean Air Act. The generators will not emit air pollution above EPA standards, therefore, EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue violations.

DEBRIS RECOVERY

Joint EPA and TCEQ field observation teams continue to observe debris staging and landfill operations within the hurricane impacted counties in Texas to ensure best practices and program requirements are being met. FEMA estimates debris to total 16.5 million cubic yards. (This is revised from yesterday's report). Observations were completed at 81 sites in the Houston area on September 14 & 15; observations will begin in Corpus Christi on September 18, 2017. A federal Debris Management Taskforce has been established at the JFO in Austin and EPA is a member of the Taskforce.

VECTOR CONTROL

DOD has completed 50% of its mission-assigned spray operations. DOD was scheduled to continue spray operations in Harris, Liberty, and Montgomery counties last night, September 16, 2017. The Texas Department of State Health Services contractor was scheduled to spray Polk county last night.

AIR MONITORING

No monitoring was conducted by the TAGA on September 16, 2017. TAGA monitoring will resume on September 17, 2017 starting in Texas City and moving to Sweeny.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Hazard Evaluations/Recovery				
Status	**Opened**		**Closed**	
	9/17/2017	**Number of Targets Remaining Open**	**9/17/2017**	**Cumulative**
Corpus Christi Branch	0	5	1	100
Houston Branch	1	32	35	354
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	1	21	18	108
NRC Reports	0	1	1	4
TOTALS	**2**	**59**	**55**	**566**
Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered. Closed means the target was recovered/left in place or access was denied to collect the item.				

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Spills/Discharges (NON-VESSELS)				
Status	**Opened**		**Closed**	
	9/17/17	**Number of Facilities/Spills Remaining Open**	**9/17/17**	**Cumulative**
Corpus Christi Branch	0	0	0	33
Houston Branch	0	3	1	75
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	0	7	2	18
NRC Reports	5	18	1	106
TOTALS	**5**	**28**	**4**	**232**
Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered/cleaned up. Closed means the target was recovered/cleaned up by a Responsible Party or not found upon return to location.				

FIELD RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

FIELD TEAMS ON 9/17/2017				
Teams	**Alpha**	**Bravo**	**Charlie**	**TOTAL**
Hazard Evaluation	0	1	1	2
Oil Discharge Assessment	0	3	0	3
ER/Orphan Container Recovery	1	14	3	18
Oil/Vessel Recovery	5	0	0	5
Staging Areas	1	1	1	3
Air Operations	0	1	0	1
Air Monitoring	0	0	0	0
Water Infrastructure Assessment – Drinking Water	0	0	0	0
Water Infrastructure Assessment – Wastewater	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	7	20	5	32

Waste Received at All Staging Pads to Date					
	CONTAINERS				TOTAL
	Drums [55 gals]	Small Containers [<55 gals]	Large Containers [>55 gals]	Cylinders	
9/17/2017	24	22	7	13	66
TOTAL TO DATE	**337**	**213**	**26**	**81**	**657**

CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH:

Orphaned containers were transferred from the Corpus Christi Branch to the staging area at the Houston Branch, where they will be prepared for disposal. From there, waste and containers will be shipped for disposal. One additional container was recovered September 16, 2017, and will be transferred to the Houston Branch today or Monday.

The Oil/Vessel Discharge Recovery Team continued salvage operations on the Signet Enterprise at Aransas Pass.

HOUSTON BRANCH:

The Oil Discharge Assessment Team conducted an assessment of a report from Harris County of a leaking orphan container in Tomball. The orphan container was found not leaking, was recovered, and taken to the staging area. The team also conducted booming operations around a disabled shrimp boat located in Dickinson's Bayou as a protective measure in case a discharge occurred from the vessel.

Orphan Container Recovery Teams recovered orphan containers and assessed sites in Fort Bend, Walker, Harris, and Montgomery Counties to determine what specialized equipment, personnel, and level of personal protective equipment will be required prior to physical recovery.

PORT ARTHUR/BEAUMONT BRANCH:

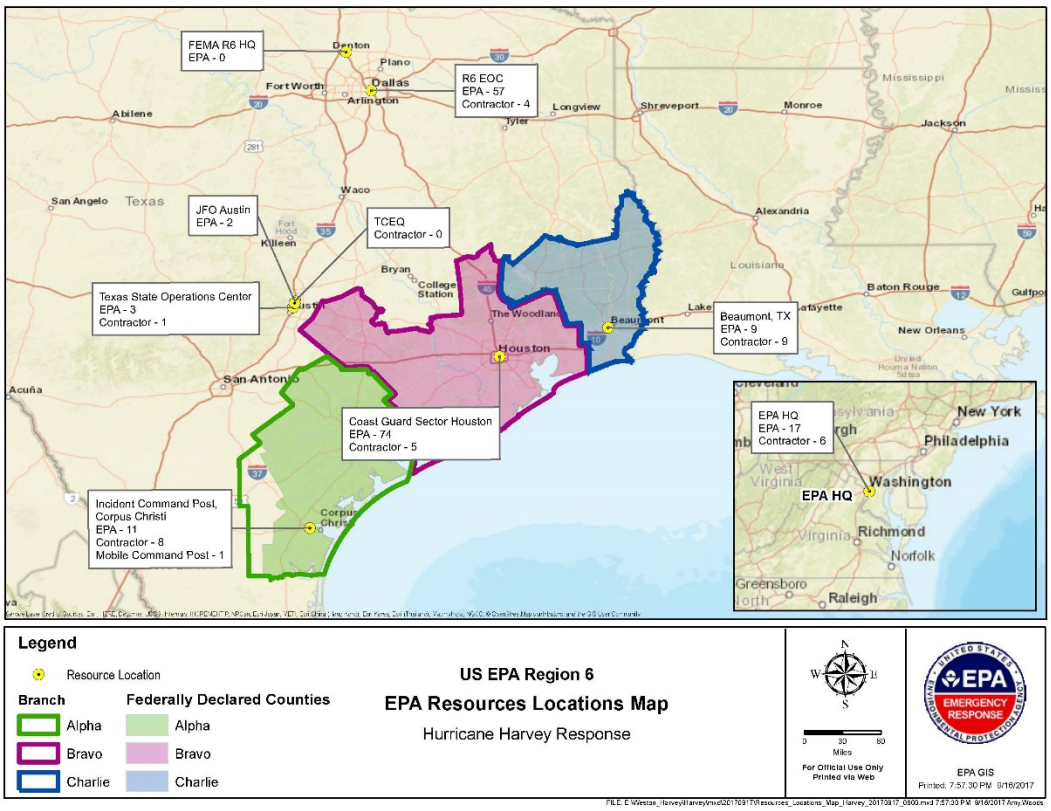
The Orphan Container Recovery Teams removed approximately 430 gallons of diesel from two tanks at Rose City Sand Corp in Vidor and recovered the tanks. The team also placed sorbent boom around the Display Train Engine in Port Arthur, Texas.

DRINKING WATER / WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS

As of September 14, 2017, Drinking Water and Wastewater Assessment activities have been completed. The remaining systems have been transitioned to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for completion.

EPA RESOURCES

Personnel	EPA Dallas, TX	FEMA Denton, TX	Texas JFO Austin, TX	Texas SOC Austin, TX	TCEQ Austin, TX	Houston, TX	Corpus Christi, TX	Beaumont, TX	HQ EOC, Wash, DC	TOTAL
EPA	57	0	2	3	0	74	12	9	17	174
START	4			1	0	5	8	9		27
ERRS						14	4	15		33
Other Contractors									6	6
TOTAL	61	0	2	4	0	93	24	33	23	240



FUNDING

SitRep
September 16, 2017, UPDATED 1300 hours

Funding Sources	Funding Ceiling	Funding Ceiling Less Indirect	Obligated to Date	Estimated Spent to Date	Unobligated Dollars Remaining	Estimated Unspent Dollars Remaining	Daily Burn Rate	Days Remaining
Non Mission Assignment	N/A			$64,200.00	$0.00	$0.00		
MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-01	$275,000.00	$242,741.00	$50,200.00	$50,200.00	$192,541.00	$192,541.00	$3,048.00	63.17
MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-03	$10,092,000.00	$8,908,113.00	$8,137,792.41	$6,730,804.89	$770,320.59	$2,177,308.11	$315,344.53	see below
Totals:	$10,367,000.00	$9,150,854.00	$8,187,992.41	$6,845,204.89	$962,861.59	$2,305,649.11		
Days remaining based on authorized direct ceiling minus total payroll, travel, and contracts EXPENDED								6.90
Days Remaining based on authorized ceiling minus total payroll, travel, and contract OBLIGATIONS								3.05

** The indirect cost pool consists of all costs classified as indirect for all appropriations that fund administrative, management and support functions.

NOTE: This report includes estimated cumulative costs of the HQ EOC charging under MA#03 (09/13/17)

FEDERAL SUPERFUND NPL SITES - (These activities are being done concurrently but outside of the current Mission Assignment)

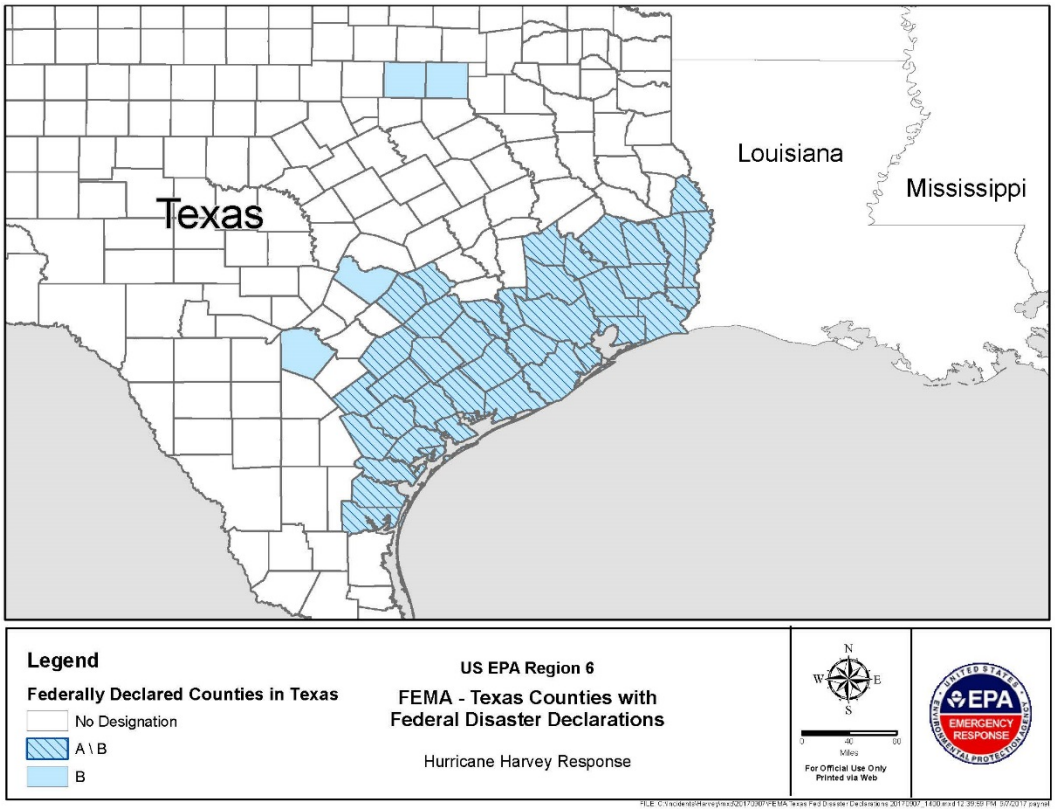
- EPA either directed potentially responsible parties (PRPs), or independently, began collecting samples at 34 Texas Superfund Sites and 9 Louisiana Sites to confirm no releases due to storm impacts. Six EPA field teams, along with PRPs, have completed sampling at 43 sites. The sampling is part of a longer term assessment that will be used to transition sites back to normal cleanup operations. Preliminary un-validated results for sites located in Texas are expected by today, September 17, 2017 and for the sites located in Louisiana by tomorrow.

- All 43 Federal Superfund NPL Sites in the hurricane affected area have been assessed. Of these, 41 sites have been cleared and two sites (San Jacinto Waste Pits and U.S. Oil Recovery) are undergoing additional follow-up as follows:

    - U.S. Oil Recovery Update: No storm water was shipped on September 16, 2017. Since the time the pump down operations began, after hurricane landfall, a total of 64 truckloads of storm water (approximately 320,000 gallons) have been removed from the Site and disposed of in an off-site permitted facility. The Potentially Responsible Party Group will monitor the lift station freeboard levels over the weekend and perform additional pump-downs if needed.

    - San Jacinto Waste Pits Update: The responsible party (RP) completed all manual probing activities of the cap on September 14, 2017. On September 15, 2017, the EPA Dive Team collected underwater sediment samples for dioxin/furan analysis in areas where gaps in the cap were found. PRP submitted, and EPA approved the cap repair work plan on September 15, 2017. The RP began maintenance work on September 16, 2017.

FEMA – TEXAS COUNTIES WITH DISASTER DECLARATIONS



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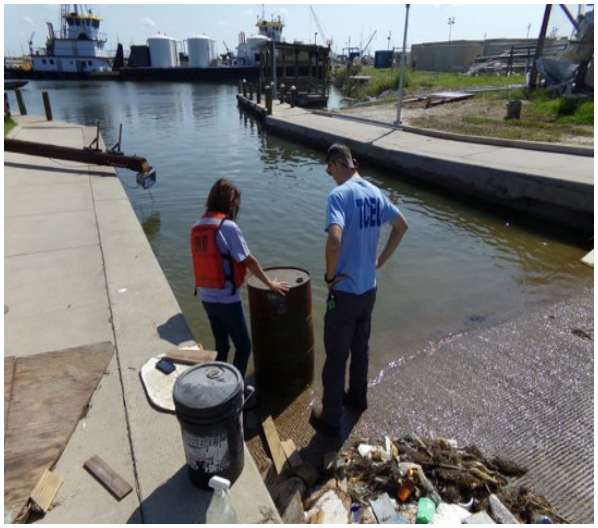

Corpus Christi
Container Recovery

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Container Recovery