

# EPA Hurricane Laura #12

## September 4, 2020

### INCIDENT OVERVIEW

EPA is working with federal and state partners to respond to the impacts of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Laura. Hurricane Laura made landfall at the southwest Louisiana coast near Cameron, Louisiana at approximately 1 am on August 27, 2020 with maximum sustained winds at 150 miles per hour (mph) and transitioned north over Cameron Parish toward north central Louisiana. According to the National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (NHCCPHC), Hurricane Laura downgraded to a Tropical Storm just across the Arkansas state line, transitioned across Arkansas to the northeast and became a Tropical Depression west-northwest of Memphis, Tennessee with storm remnants heading northeast across Kentucky.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory for southwest Louisiana and a flood warning for rivers in the Mermentau, Lafayette and Lake Charles areas of Louisiana.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The next EPA Management Report will be sent out on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.
- EPA has received 39 National Response Center (NRC) reports in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR), related to Hurricane Laura. EPA received 7 calls for this reporting period on incidents in its AOR. As of midnight, on September 3, 2020, all reports have been assessed and appropriate actions are being taken.
- In Beaumont, 10 of 13 air monitors are online. The three remaining sites are awaiting power to be restored. Status of air monitors in Texas can be found on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Air Monitoring website. <https://www17.tceq.texas.gov/tamis/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.news&currentOnly=false>
- EPA handheld air monitoring operations were completed at 3 pm on September 3, 2020, and crews will demobilize today. The Trace Atmosphere Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus will conduct daily mobile monitoring in the Port Arthur/Orange area through September 11, 2020, with a break on September 6, 2020.
- LDEQ has 2 of the 7 ambient air monitors back online in the Lake Charles area (Southwest & Acadiana Regions). Most of these sites are awaiting power restoration to come online. Status of air monitors in Louisiana can be found on Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)'s Air Quality website <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/ambient-air-monitoring-data-reports>.
- LDEQ deployed two state Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) to Lake Charles and Westlake to operate through Friday, September 11, 2020.

### SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 6 closed down its Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) as of 5 pm on September 3, 2020 and released the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 representative. An ESF #10 representative continues to virtually staff the FEMA Interim Operating Facility (IOF).
- The four EPA Drinking Water/Wastewater Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) continue to assist teams of United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Louisiana

Department of Health (LDH) personnel with facility assessments.

- The EPA Region 7 Mobile Drinking Water Lab is stationed in Lake Charles and supporting State and local officials with analysis of drinking water samples for residual chlorine and bacteria. The EPA Region 6 Houston Laboratory assisted with procurement of supplies for delivery to the R7 Mobile Lab on Saturday, September 5, 2020.
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) provided links to ToxFAQs which were included in the September 3, 2020, Press Releases sent out to Environmental Justice (EJ) stakeholders and advocates.
- EPA sent out a news release on community clean-up after a storm that was translated into Spanish, “Herramientas de la EPA para la limpieza de las comunidades tras el huracán Laura,” and disseminated to EJ stakeholders and advocates and posted to the EPA website.

## FORCE MAJEURE

- On September 4, 2020, the EPA received a Force Majeure notice that the ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery and the ExxonMobil Colonial Storage Beaumont facility have been impacted by Hurricane Laura, COVID-19 and third-party electrical power supply instability. The notice informs the EPA that Force Majeure event impacts the facilities' ability to comply with certain provisions of the December 13, 2005, Consent Decree entered into between the United States and Exxon Mobil Corporation and ExxonMobil Oil Corporation.
- The Motiva facility in Port Arthur, TX, submitted a force majeure notice on August 26, 2020.

## COORDINATION WITH STATE AGENCIES

- EPA is coordinating daily through multiple avenues with Louisiana and Texas on response status, needs, and to maintain situational awareness.

## EPA RESOURCES

<b>Hurricane Laura - Manpower Resources 9/4/2020</b>						
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>REOC Dallas (a)</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>FEMA Baton Rouge</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>FEMA Denton</b>	<b>Total</b>
R6	22*(a)	4/3*	1*	3*	1*	34
R7	0	2	0	0	0	2
TAGA	0	0	0	1	0	1
ASPECT	0	0	0	0	0	0
START	1*	1	0	0	0	2
ERRS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other contractor	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>

\*working virtually

(a) REOC added 2 part time EU staff and 2 part time travel staff to its reported numbers.

## NATIONAL PRIORITY LIST SITES AND FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

As of September 1, 2020, remedial assessments for the 76 National Priority List (NPL) sites within federally declared counties and parishes were completed and no further response related

to Tropical Storm Marco or Hurricane Laura is required.

LDEQ has assessed 324 of the 336 priority facilities\* identified. No concerns were reported.

\* LDEQ Priority facilities include: Chemical Action Prevention (CAP) facilities, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Majors, STP Significant Minors, Radioactive Material Licensees, Toxic or Hazardous Pollutant Air Emission facilities (Title V), STP Industrial Majors, and, Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage & Disposal (HWTS&D) facilities.

## DRINKING WATER /WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS

All drinking water and wastewater assessments are being conducted and data being reported by the state in which the system is located.

### Louisiana Water Assessments

#### Drinking Water Systems in Louisiana

Included Area: Acadia, Ascension, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, La Salle, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Martin, St. Mary, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, Winn		
Data as of September 3, 2020 2:30pm		
Data provided by: LDH	# of systems	Population served
Operating with no use restrictions	1019	4422049
Operating with use restrictions	182	614664
Not Operating	62	49116
Unknown	0	0
Total systems in impacted area	1,304	5,085,879
Boil Water Advisories	136	N/A
Comments:		

Note: use restrictions could include boil water, do not drink, do not use, conservation measures, or other categories

#### Wastewater Systems in Louisiana

Included Area: Acadia, Ascension, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, La Salle, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Martin, St. Mary, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, Winn	
Data as of September 4, 2020 10:00am	
Data provided by: LDEQ	# of systems
Operating with no use restrictions	85
Operating with use restrictions	11
Not Operating	6
Unknown	12
Total systems in impacted area	114
Comments:	

Operating is defined as all domestic wastewater is collected, treated, and discharged or land applied at Fed/State required levels and can meet these requirements on a permanent basis in lieu of a temporary basis in response to the incident.

<sup>2</sup> Partially operating means there are issues in collection and/or treatment, but some functions are occurring. Bypasses, sanitary sewer overflows, partial treatment, unauthorized discharges, and other issues could be occurring.

<sup>3</sup> Not operating is defined as collection and/or treatment is not functioning.

### Texas Water Assessments

#### Drinking Water Systems in Texas

Included Area: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, and St. Augustine Counties		
Data as of September 4, 2020 2:00pm		

Operating with no use restrictions	84	319919
Operating with use restrictions	57	128692
Not Operating	23	5126
Unknown	0	0
Total systems in impacted area	164	453737
Boil Water Advisory	33	N/A
Comments:		

Note: use restrictions could include boil water, do not drink, do not use, conservation measures, or other categories

## Wastewater Systems in Texas

Included Area: Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, and St. Augustine Counties	
Data as of September 4, 2020 2:00pm	
Data provided by: TCEQ	# of systems
Operating <sup>1</sup>	55
Partially Operating <sup>2</sup>	1
Not Operating <sup>3</sup>	2
Unknown	0
Total systems in impacted area	58
Comments:	

<sup>1</sup> Operating is defined as all domestic wastewater is collected, treated, and discharged or land applied at Fed/State required levels and can meet these requirements on a permanent basis in lieu of a temporary basis in response to the incident.

<sup>2</sup> Partially operating means there are issues in collection and/or treatment, but some functions are occurring. Bypasses, sanitary sewer overflows, partial treatment, unauthorized discharges, and other issues could be occurring.

<sup>3</sup> Not operating is defined as collection and/or treatment is not functioning.

## AIR MONITORING

EPA handheld air monitoring teams conducted 45 air monitoring readings on September 3, 2020. Results were reported above an action level at one location for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The detection was temporary (i.e., not sustained) and does not appear to indicate a VOC plume.

The roving air monitoring teams completed their mission on September 3, 2020.

The facilities and neighborhoods monitored are listed below:

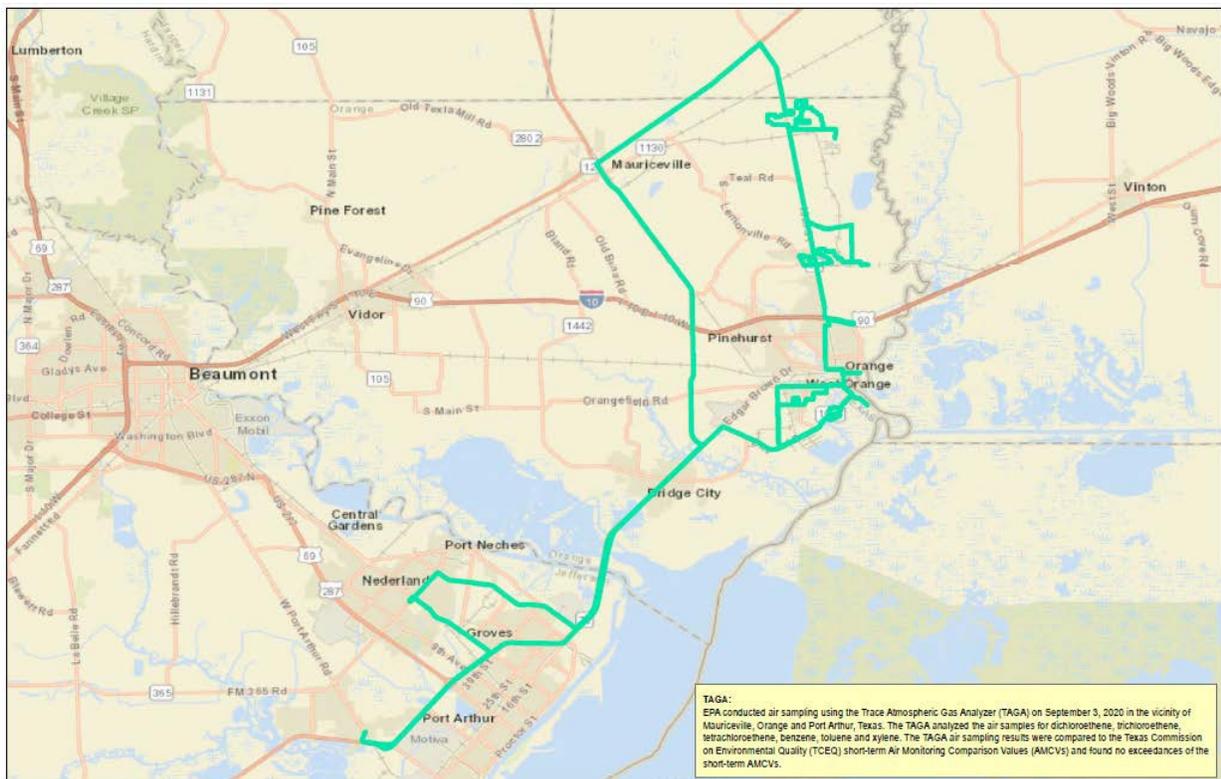
Facility/Area	Neighborhood
Chem32	West Orange
Hydrochem	West Orange
Motiva	El Vista
Total	El Vista
BASF	El Vista
Exxon Mobil	Beaumont – Charlton Pollard
Chevron	West Port Arthur
Valero	West Port Arthur
	Nederland

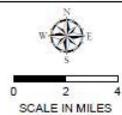
On September 3, 2020, TAGA conducted mobile monitoring in the Port Arthur/Orange area for VOCs to include benzene, toluene, xylenes/ethyl benzene, tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene and dichloroethenes. Concentrations of the target compounds, the geographical position, and time were recorded and displayed through the VIPER program.

The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs.

Maps of ASPECT flights and TAGA air monitoring routes are posted on the public website, <https://response.epa.gov/hurricaneLaura>.

TAGA will continue to monitor the Port Arthur/Orange/Beaumont Area until September 11, 2020, with a break on September 6. TAGA missions are provided by TCEQ.



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p> TAGA DATA COLLECTION</p> 	<p><b>TAGA MAP</b> HURRICANE LAURA RESPONSE JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS</p> <p>REPORTING PERIOD #5 9/3/2020</p>	 <p>SCALE IN MILES For Official Use Only Printed via Web</p>	 <p>EPA GIS Printed: 12:02:27 PM 9/4/2020</p>
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**Legend**

**AIR MONITORING LOCATION**

- NO EXCEEDANCE



**AIR MONITORING MAP  
 HURRICANE LAURA RESPONSE  
 JEFFERSON AND  
 ORANGE COUNTIES, TX**

**REPORTING PERIOD #6  
 9/3/2020 0800 - 9/3/2020 1600**

0 1 2  
 SCALE IN MILES  
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EPA GIS

Printed: 9:16:30 AM 9/4/2020

