

EPA Hurricane Laura #14

September 10, 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- EPA has received 59 National Response Center (NRC) reports in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR), related to Hurricane Laura. EPA received 6 calls for this two-day reporting period on incidents in its AOR. As of midnight, on September 9, 2020, all reports have been assessed and appropriate actions are being taken.
- An EPA representative continues to virtually staff the Emergency Support Function #10 (ESF #10) Desk at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Interim Operating Facility (IOF) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- In Beaumont, 12 of 13 air monitors are online. The remaining site is 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. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/monops/air-mon>
- The Trace Atmosphere Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus conducted mobile monitoring in the Beaumont, Groves, Port Arthur and Port Neches areas. It will be released from operations on September 11, 2020.
- LDEQ has 3 of the 7 ambient air monitors back online in the Lake Charles area (Southwest & Acadiana Regions). Most of the off-line 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's two Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) are in Lake Charles and Westlake operating through Friday, September 11, 2020.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- 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 Mobile Laboratory analyzed 40 samples on Monday, 40 samples on Tuesday and 38 samples on Wednesday. Results of the 118 samples completed have been shared with State and local Responders.
- On September 8, 2020, EPA participated in a mosquito abatement contingency planning

task force meeting hosted by FEMA. The primary invitees were Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Louisiana Department Health (LDH), and Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). EPA received no tasking from the meeting.

FORCE MAJEURE

- Total Petrochemicals and Refining USA submitted a Force Majeure notice for its facility in Port Arthur, Texas on September 9, 2020.
- Exxon Mobil submitted a Force Majeure notice for its Baytown Refinery on September 8, 2020.
- ExxonMobil submitted a Force Majeure notice for its Beaumont Refinery and Colonial Storage Beaumont facility on September 4, 2020.
- Motiva submitted a Force Majeure notice for its facility in Port Arthur, TX, on August 26, 2020.

COORDINATION WITH STATE AGENCIES

- EPA is coordinating daily with Louisiana and Texas on response needs and to maintain situational awareness.

EPA RESOURCES

Hurricane Laura - Manpower Resources 9/10/2020						
Personnel	REOC Dallas	Louisiana	FEMA Baton Rouge	Texas	FEMA Denton	Total
R6	19*	3*	1*	3*	0	26
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 Contractors	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total	20	6	1	6	0	33

*working virtually

Other contractors are part of TAGA crew.

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.

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 9, 2020 at 2:30 pm		
Data provided by LDH	# of systems	Population
Operating with no use restrictions	1165	4,755,452
Operating with use restrictions	94	315,127
Not Operating	43	15,250
Unknown	0	0
Total systems in impacted area	1304	5,085,879
Boil Water Advisory	82	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 10, 2020 10:00 am	
Data provided by LDEQ	# of systems
Operating ¹	104
Partially Operating ²	9
Not Operating ³	0
Unknown	2
Total systems in impacted area	115
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.

²Partially 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.

³Not 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 10, 2020 2:00 pm		
Data provided by TCEQ	# of systems	Population
Operating with no use restrictions	137	441,579
Operating with use restrictions	23	11,407
Not Operating	4	751
Unknown	0	0
Total systems in impacted area	164	453,737
Boil Water Advisory as of 9/7/2020 2 pm	53	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 10, 2020 2:00pm	
Data provided by TCEQ	# of systems
Operating ¹	58
Partially Operating ²	0
Not Operating ³	0
Unknown	0
Total systems in impacted area	58
Comments:	

¹ 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.

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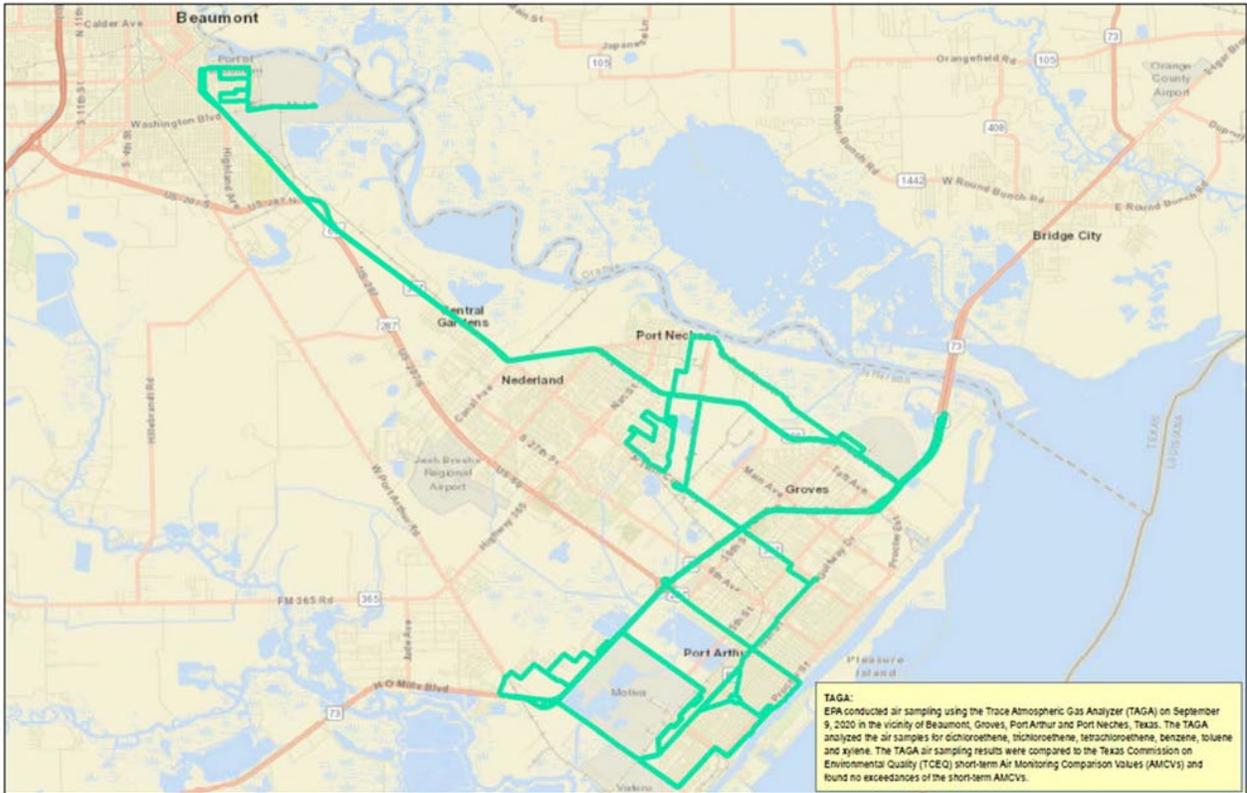
AIR MONITORING

On September 9, 2020, the TAGA bus conducted mobile monitoring in the Beaumont, Groves, Port Arthur and Port Neches 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 mapped.

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

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

TAGA will completed all monitoring requested by the TCEQ on September 10, and will demobilize back to Research Triangle Park, North Carolina on September 11, 2020.



Legend

 TAGA DATA COLLECTION

TAGA MAP
HURRICANE LAURA RESPONSE
JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

REPORTING PERIOD #10
 9/9/2020



 SCALE IN MILES
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