

Tropical Storm Ida

Spot Report #1

August 27, 2021

Overview: Tropical Storm Ida is forecast to approach the U.S. northern Gulf coast on Sunday. Additional strengthening is likely over the Gulf of Mexico and the system could be near major Hurricane strength when it approaches the northern Gulf coast. There is a risk of life-threatening storm surge inundation along the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, where a Storm Surge Watch is in effect. There is an increasing risk of dangerous hurricane-force winds beginning Sunday along the portions of the coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi, including metropolitan New Orleans, where a Hurricane Watch is in effect. Ida is expected to produce heavy rains across the central Gulf Coast from southeast Louisiana to coastal Mississippi, Alabama, as well as the Lower Mississippi Valley starting Sunday into Monday, resulting in considerable flash, urban, small stream, and riverine flooding.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:

- Louisiana activated to Level 3 (Partial Activation). The state conducted weather calls on Thursday, August 26, 2021, and Parish TF calls starting Friday, August 27, 2021.
- Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) prepared for landfall by populating data systems, the agencies have started contacting regulated facilities via email/phone. LDEQ has sent an email blast to 1,944 wastewater facilities.
- As of August 27, 2021, LDEQ does not plan on shutting down any of their ambient air monitors for the storm.
- The US Coast Guard (USCG) is also monitoring the storm.

EPA Actions:

- EPA is participating in the daily Hurricane Taskforce calls with the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), LDEQ, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) and the USCG to discuss storm preparations and resource availability.
- EPA participated in a call on August 26, 2021, with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Deputy Director of Homeland Security to discuss potential requests for assistance with storm response.
- EPA Region 6's Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) is operating at Level 2, Increased Preparedness Posture.
- An EPA Region 6 Light Incident Management Team including an Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Safety Officer has been identified and is prepared to respond if requested by Louisiana.

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plans to activate ESF #10 beginning Saturday, August 28, 2021.
- EPA contacted the 23 National Priority List (NPL) sites in Louisiana on Thursday, August 26, 2021 as part of the Remedial Program's normal pre-storm process.
- On August 27, 2021, Office of Regional Counsel (ORC) reached out to the LDEQ senior counsel to coordinate any shared legal issues that might arise from the approach and aftermath of Tropical Storm Ida.
- On August 27, 2021, ORC received a Force Majeure notice from the Valero (Meraux) Refinery in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. The notice provides that the refinery will shut down its Community Air Monitoring Station on Ventura Drive in order to protect the equipment. The refinery provided the notice pursuant to the terms of the Consent Decree it is under.
- The Office of External Affairs is preparing a news release urging communities to avoid indoor air dangers and operating a generator safely – to be published soon.
- On August 27, 2021, a wellness check was emailed to EJ Stakeholders and Tribes in Texas and Louisiana in advance of Tropical Storm Ida. The wellness check was sent to 29 entities in LA, 34 in TX, and 5 tribes (4 in LA and 1 in TX). EJ Stakeholders and Tribes were informed that EPA is tracking the storm and asked that they notify EPA if they experience adverse environmental impacts from the storm.
- EPA held a Safety call on Thursday, August 26, 2021.
- EPA Region 6 confirmed the availability of various assets including the mobile drinking water labs from Region 6 and Region 7, the ASPECT aircraft, and the TAGA bus.
- EPA Region 6 is preparing PCB disaster debris cleanup guidance for PCB-contaminated cleanup debris in advance of the anticipated landfall of Tropical Storm. The guidance will allow for electrical utility companies and their cooperatives to conduct sampling and disposal of PCBs on an "as found" concentration basis, instead of based on source concentration, since often during disaster cleanup the original source is unknown.
- EPA Region 6 contacted the LDEQ Underground Storage Tanks Program and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to inform them that R6 is standing by to assist if needed.

Media Interest: High