

# **Hurricane Ida**

## **Spot Report #2**

### **August 29, 2021**

**Overview:** Hurricane Ida made landfall August 29, 2021, at approximately 12:00 pm west of Grand Isle, Louisiana. High winds and storm surge are expected in the coastal Parishes of Louisiana throughout the day. 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 1 (Full Activation). The state conducted calls throughout the weekend.
- Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) prepared for landfall by populating data systems. The agencies will begin contacting regulated facilities via email/phone post storm on Monday or Tuesday. LDEQ sent an email blast, pre-storm, to 1,944 wastewater facilities.
- As of August 29, 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 is working with FEMA on potential Mission Assignments for mobile drinking water lab support and drinking water and wastewater subject matter experts.
- EPA HQ is reviewing a "Request for Temporary Waiver to Allow the Use of 11.5 Pounds Per Square Inch (PSI) Vapor Pressure (RVP) Gasoline in the State of Louisiana."
- EPA Region 6's Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) is operating at Level 2, Increased Preparedness Posture.
- A dashboard has been created to allow the REOC to track NRC reports in the affected area.
- A public response site has been created at <https://response.epa.gov/HurricaneIda>.
- 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) activated the ESF #10 desk at the Regional Response Coordination Center and the State of Louisiana Emergency Operation Center on Saturday, August 28, 2021. EPA Region 6 is staffing both positions virtually.
- 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, 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 (ORAX) published a news release urging communities to avoid indoor air dangers and generator safety on August 27, 2021.
- ORAX has responded to a press inquiry on the storm, as well as participating in a FEMA Spanish Press Briefing.
- On August 29, 2021, OCTEA sent Spanish and Vietnamese versions of the news release "EPA Urges Communities in Hurricane Ida's Path to Avoid Indoor Air Dangers, Use Generators Safely" and "Tropical Storm Ida Spot Report #1" to stakeholders.
- 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.

| <b>Personnel</b> | <b>EPA R6 Dallas*</b> | <b>FEMA RRCC*</b> | <b>LA SEOC*</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Region 6</b>  | 7                     | 1                 | 1               | 9            |
| <b>START</b>     | 1                     | 0                 | 0               | 1            |
| <b>Total</b>     | 8                     | 1                 | 1               | 10           |

\* All positions virtual