

# DOW ST. CHARLES INCIDENT TIMELINE

A look at the events that transpired July 7 during the chemical leak:

**3:57 a.m.:** Shell Chemical employee reports acrylic odor and asks where it's coming from.

**3:58 a.m.:** EOC calls Dow and asks if odor is coming from their plant.

**4:03 a.m.:** Dow says it is unaware of odor, but will check.

**4:43 a.m.:** Dow declares "Unusual Event," defined as a problem in a plant's normal operations, saying fire alarm in an acrylic tank was sounding, but no fire was detected. No protective actions advised.

**4:56 a.m.:** Dow says tank is stabilized and employees were pumping water onto it. Company says no protective actions needed.

**5:29 a.m.:** Dow evacuates personnel around tank, but says no protective actions needed outside the fence line.

**6:05 a.m.:** St. Charles EOC operator George Guedry of New Sarpy smells odor and phones EOC to request permission to come to work early, saying situation may escalate.

**6:07 a.m.:** Resident calls in complaining of "terrible odor" at her home in Hahnville.

**6:09 a.m.:** Dow says tank is "basically empty" but that "potent, but non-toxic" odors could force closure of River Road.

**6:21 a.m.:** Dow requests foam from nearby industries. International Matex Tank Terminals agrees to provide it.

**6:30-6:45 a.m.:** More residents in Hahnville and New Sarpy call about odor.

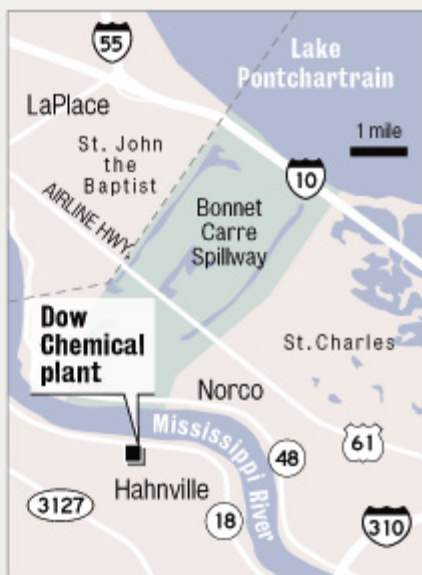
**6:50 a.m.:** Dow advises that vapors do not meet the levels that call for community response.

**7:09 a.m.:** Resident calls complaining of odor continue to come in. One Destrehan resident calls it "worst odor ever smelled."

**7:09 a.m.:** Jefferson Parish EOC calls in to report odors throughout much of Jefferson Parish.

**7:10 a.m.:** Event status upgraded to "Alert," the second level of EOC emergency status, for River Road area. First roadblocks go up.

Source: St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center



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