

## STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

**SUBJECT: El Dorado Chemical Plant Fire**

### **SITUATION REPORT # 1**

**DATE AND TIME COVERED: Thursday, July 30, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.**

#### **1. CURRENT SITUATION: Critical**

Early this afternoon a fire occurred at the El Dorado Chemical Plant, located in the City of Bryan, Brazos County. Approximately 557 tons of fertilizer, including Ammonium Nitrate were released into the atmosphere, necessitating the evacuation of a 3-mile radius around the plant that may expand to a 5-mile radius. Officials have notified all persons north of Villa Maria to evacuate. This includes all areas from the Brazos River to SH 6. All persons are asked to travel south and NOT to drive toward the smoke plume. An evacuation shelter is being established at Reed Arena, 730 Olsen Blvd., College Station. State, local, and federal agencies are coordinating to provide support. An Incident Command Post (ICP) has been established at 7700 West State Highway 21 in Brazos County. Residents are cautioned that Ammonium Nitrate is a very dangerous and strong oxidizer. Contact with other material may cause fire/explosion. This chemical is harmful if swallowed or inhaled, causes irritation to skin, eyes, and respiratory tract. At this time, no casualties have been reported.

#### **2. AREAS AFFECTED BY EVENT: City of Bryan, Brazos County**

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed members of its Emergency Response Strike Team from Waco to the area with air monitoring capabilities. ETA is 5:30 p.m. In addition, the Strike Team Mobile Command Post will deploy to site within two hours. They will bring full air monitoring, hazmat, and communication capabilities. The TCEQ has also communicated with EPA Region 6 (Dallas) who is sending their ASPECT air monitoring airplane. EPA also has a ER START team on the way with air monitoring capabilities and a helicopter to do flyover surveillance.

**American Red Cross (ARC):** The Heart of Texas Chapter (Waco) of ARC has a shelter team, snacks, and water en route to Reed Arena which is located at 730 Olsen Blvd. in College Station, to set up a shelter as requested by local emergency management officials. Currently, up to 1,000 people are estimated to seek shelter during the evacuation process. The Chapter EOC Liaison in Bryan is working with local emergency management to determine a better number of potential evacuees for which to plan, since the area affected runs county to county. At this time, ARC chapters bordering this area are being notified for potential mutual aid.

**Texas Task Force 1 (TTF1):** TTF1 is deploying twelve (12) persons with appropriate HAZMAT protective equipment to support response and ground-level air-monitoring efforts.

**Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):** DPS Regional Liaison Officers 6C, Sub 4B, and 2A are responding to provide support to the Command Post and the City of Bryan, Brazos County.

**Texas Military 6<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team:** Has been deployed to provide chemical detection and communication support.

#### **3. RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES COMMITTED:**

Agency/Organization	Resources Committed
TCEQ	Emergency Response Strike Team, Strike Team Mobile Command Post, Air monitoring, HAZMAT,

	and communication capabilities.
ARC	Shelter Support, Food and Beverage Services
TTF1	12 personnel with appropriate HAZMAT protective equipment
TXDPS	Regional Liaison Officers
EPA	ET START Team, ASPECT air-monitoring airplane, and a helicopter to perform flyovers and surveillance
TXMF 6 <sup>TH</sup> Civil Support Team	Chemical detection and communication support

**4. DAMAGES: None**

**5. EVACUATIONS:** Citizens within a 3-mile radius around the chemical plant.

**6. SHELTERS:** A shelter is being established at Reed Arena, 730 Olsen Blvd., College Station, Brazos County.

**7. ROADS CURRENTLY CLOSED: None**

**8. CURRENT UTILITY OUTAGES: None**

**9. COMMENTS:** The Governor's Division of Emergency Management is closely monitoring the situation. The SOC is at Level I (Emergency Conditions) to support wildfire response and border security operations.

**The four levels of SOC activation are:**

Level I (Emergency Conditions)

Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)

Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)

Level IV (Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the DEM Homepage at: [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem)*

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