

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Friday, July 31, 2009

From: Nancy Jones

Subject: Continuation of Response Activities
El Dorado Chemical Fire
6232 West Highway 21, Bryan, TX

POLREP No.:	2	Site #:	
Reporting Period:	7/30 - 7/31/2009	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	7/30/2009	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	7/30/2009	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC) received a report of a large chemical fire at the El Dorado Chemical plant located at 6232 West State Highway 21 in Bryan, Brazos County. The building contains fertilizer, of which one is ammonium nitrate (Dangerous; strong oxidizer. Contact with other material may cause fire or explosion. Harmful if swallowed or inhaled; causes irritation to skin, eyes and respiratory tract). An incident command post has been established. A three mile radius evacuation has been enacted. EPA OSC Jones has been deployed to site. ASPECT plane deployed to gather plume data

Current Activities

EPA, CST and the PRPs contractor began collecting baseline air quality data to aid in the evacuation decision making. CST and the PRP deployed Area RAEs with ammonia specific sensor cross gradient and down gradient of the fire. EPA collected data along the perimeter of the evacuation zone. All the data collected indicated that ammonia concentrations were below the human health action levels.

ASPECT conducted a third flight over the fire to collect additional air quality data. Preliminary data from the ASPECT flight did not detect any chemicals of concern. However several areas of elevated temperatures were detected.

Based on the baseline air monitoring data and the preliminary results from the ASPECT flight Unified Command removed the remaining evacuation zone. However Highway 21 remains closed to thru traffic due to the close proximity of the facility to the highway.

A mitigation plan was approved to address the smoldering timbers segregating the pile of ammonia nitrate product from the ammonia sulfate product pile. The mitigation effort is expected to take approximately 8 hours.

Planned Removal Actions

The PRP and its contractors are currently developing a formal remediation action plan for review and approval by Unified Command.

Next Steps

EPA/CST/TCEQ and the PRPs contractor will continue to collect air monitoring data for public health and worker protection purposes.

Key Issues

An evacuation shelter was established at Reed Arena located at 730 Olsen Road, College Station.

Due to the explosive nature of ammonium nitrate extreme caution will be required during the remediation of the site.

Potential heavy rain showers are predicted for the area.

response.epa.gov/eldofire