



UPDATE 3/21/19 - TEJAS STATEMENT ON THE FIRE AT INTERCONTINENTAL TERMINALS CO. LLC
NAPHTHA AND XYLENE EXPOSURE ALONG HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL

Overview:

Sunday, March 17, 2019 - At 10:22 a.m. a fire was reported at Intercontinental Terminals Co. LLC in Deer Park, Texas. At 7:00 p.m. an official statement disclosed the first tank **NAPHTHA caught fire** and a second tank containing **XYLENE**, a component of gasoline has also ignited. HAZMAT evaluated the situation. An **evacuation was not ordered** for the City of Deer Park. ITC officials were working with local agencies to keep abreast of the situation as it continued. Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioner Precinct 2 Adrian Garcia gave a statement on site and offered support and services as needed. Air quality officials monitored conditions stating pollution levels remained undetectable. (Although not stated the origin tank was **80-08** which spread to **80-05**). **Shelter in place was lifted as of 11:40a.m.**

Monday, March 18, 2019 - At 1:30 a.m. ITC Deer Park reported the fire spread to 5 adjacent tanks along with the original two and reported them containing gas blend stocks. One tank later was reported empty. Shelter-in-place remained in effect. At 5:30 a.m. newly reported chemical TOLUENE was named and air monitoring detected low levels of particulate matter and a single VOC (volatile organic compound) was detected 6 miles away. Major access highways closed including 225 in both directions. 10:00 a.m. the update was about the opening of HWY 225. 3:00p.m. ITC is releasing to the public environmental reporting issued by *Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, LLC (CTEH)*. Tanks involved were reported as **80-2, 80-3, 80-5, 80-6, 80-8, 80-11**. According to CTEH all detections recorded were below levels that would represent public health concern. First mention of a risk of explosion. Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC Public Information Officer Update – Emergency responders continue to work on controlling the fire. 10:00 p.m. ITC establishes a claims site <http://itccclaims.com> as well as a hotline. An environmental report issued by CTEH states that all air quality detections recorded by the CTEH were below levels that would represent a public health concern. **Closed school districts include: Deer Park ISD**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 – 2:30 a.m. The fire intensified due to a temporary reduction of water pressure although restored close after. Two additional tanks caught fire, material inside undisclosed. Air monitoring detected matter at below hazardous levels. 10:00 a.m. reported tanks involved being **80-2, 80-3, 80-5, 80-6, 80-8, 80-11** and empty tanks **80-9, 80-12**. The two additional tanks involved were **80-14 and 80-15 both containing pyrolysis gasoline. PYGAS is gas blend with HIGH BENZENE CONTENT**. CTEH air monitoring levels continued to show below levels that would represent a public health concern. 10:00 a.m. air monitoring conditions remain the same. **Deer Park ISD resumed classes.**

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 3:00 a.m. the firefighting crews on the scene of the ITC tank farm fire are reporting that all tank fires have been extinguished. Crews continue to spray foam and water on the tanks to facilitate cooling and prevent reigniting of remaining material. Steam and smoke may still be visible from the area and the possibility of reigniting still exists. Air monitoring continues and as of the update, readings are currently below hazardous levels. **Closed school districts and educational institutions include:** San Jacinto College, Deer Park ISD (said to resume today was cancelled), La Porte ISD, Pasadena ISD, Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD, Sheldon ISD, San Jacinto College, Clear Horizons Early College High School, Family Christian Academy, Northeast Campus - KIPP Legacy, KIPP Polaris, KIPP Voyage, KIPP Northeast College Prep, East End Campus - KIPP Intrepid, KIPP Explore, South East Campus - KIPP Climb, KIPP Prime, Baker Ripley Cleveland Campus in Pasadena, Rhodes School for Performing Arts in Channelview, St. Christopher Catholic School

TCEQ Statement for Wed., March 20, 2019 states: "Monitored levels of benzene have not reached a point of short-term health concern with a maximum of 66.6 parts per billion, recorded at a single air monitoring station at 6 a.m. Other monitors west of the fire have also measured increased readings of benzene of up to 14.9 ppb as of 10 a.m. TCEQ moved a temporary air monitoring station between the nearby neighborhood and the facility, and that station did not record any detectable levels of benzene as of 11 a.m. Short-term exposure to one-hour benzene concentrations below 180 ppb are not of health concern." **Closed school districts include**

Schools closures Deerpark ISD closed resuming class March 21, 2019

Thursday, March 21, 2019 – 6:00 a.m. The fire remained extinguished; however on site responders are reporting increased levels of BENZENE. The levels were reported at below those that represent an immediate risk Deer Park Called for a shelter-in-place. BENZENE that originated from PYGAS tanks. 11:00 p.m press conference - ITC Public Information Officer in an official statement, claimed a foam blanket was applied to prevent emissions from being released from a compromised tank missing a floating roof. ITC representative claimed that may have shifted overnight because of wind gusts exposing the area to BENZENE. The chemical in the tank was stated as being removed from this tank to another. A Shelter-in-Place was issued. Shelter-in Place order was lifted as of 11:40a.m. No time-frame was given for removal of chemical substances. Hwy 225 will also be re-opened from Beltway 8 to Highway 146. City crews were deployed to remove all barricades placed Thursday morning and re-open the roadways. ITC Representatives state that this site is still in a zone-of-protection and heat is still present as the event evolves.

TCEQ statement- "According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Harris County HAZMAT teams and a private contractor on-site at ITC Deer Park, air quality readings are improving, and over the last few hours, they have been significantly reduced," Hemminger said. "This information, combined with the assurance of Harris County Public Health, allows us to meet our internal criteria necessary to lift our shelter-in-place.

Six school districts are closed: La Porte ISD, Pasadena ISD, Channelview ISD, Sheldon ISD, Galena Park ISD, San Jacinto College, Clear Horizons Early College High School, Clear Creek ISD, KIPP East End, Northeast and Southeast campuses.

Harris County Statement: "Harris county officials urged residents to call for help answer on any health related questions, at Ask My Nurse hotline by Harris Health System is now open from 8AM to 8:30PM 7 days a week. The number is 713-634-1110. Nurses on the line will help with questions about sign and symptoms. Additionally, individuals with more serious symptoms, call 911 for any life threatening emergency. Harris County Public Health wants to remind individuals that the situation may lead to strong feelings of stress or anxiety. If this is the case, talk to you someone you trust or contact the National Distressline (call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746), which offers 24/7 emotional support. HCPH will continue to working with partners, including hospitals, to monitor the ongoing situation and will provide updates accordingly.

At this time, the cause of the fire is undetermined. **PYGAS is gas blend with HIGH BENZENE CONTENT**

CHEMICALS OF CONCERN List and Symptoms Below:

NAPHTHA can affect you when breathed in and by passing through your skin. Symptoms of acute exposure may include irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, headaches, dizziness, nausea and vomiting. High exposures can cause lightheadedness, fatigue. Repeated exposure may cause damage to the nervous system and kidney damage.¹

¹ New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, <https://nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb/documents/fs/0518.pdf>

XYLENE exposure at high levels can lead to irritation of eyes, nose and throat; cause difficulties breathing; headaches; delayed reaction times; memory difficulties; stomach discomfort and possibly changes in liver and kidneys. It can cause unconsciousness and even death at high levels.²

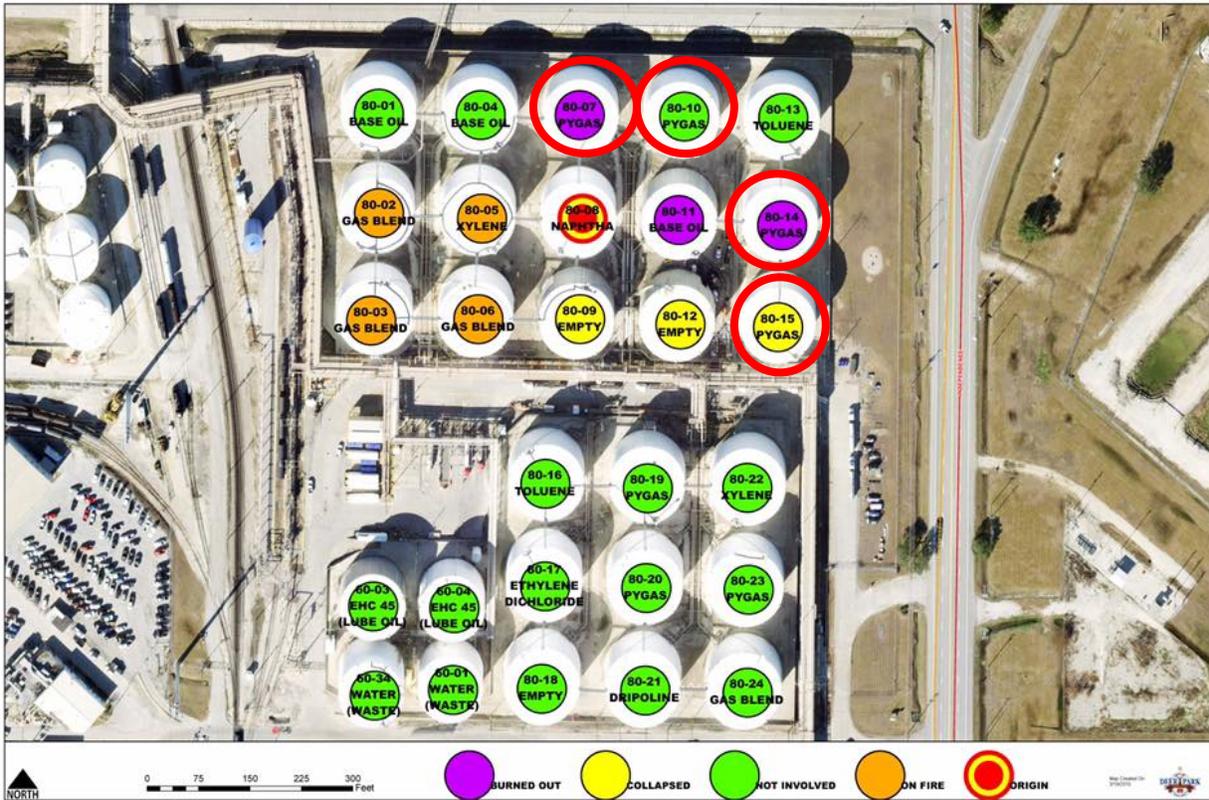
TOLUENE, is a colorless liquid with a sweet odor. It is used to produce other chemicals including benzene and a component of plastic bottles and nylon. Short-term exposure to low or moderate levels can cause fatigue, weakness, memory loss, nausea, and appetite loss. Long-term exposure can cause irritation of the eyes or lungs, headaches and dizziness. Toluene may also affect the nervous system and reproductive systems and cause developmental problems in children.³

PYGAS is gas blend with **HIGH BENZENE CONTENT**

BENZENE, is a colorless gas liquid with a sweet odor that readily evaporates into air. Occurs naturally in crude oil and gasoline) Occurs naturally in crude oil and gasoline. Used in plastics, rubbers and synthetic fibers, dyes, detergents and other products. Short-term exposure to high levels may cause headaches, tremors, drowsiness and even death. Long-term exposure can cause anemia and potentially leukemia. Women who breathe in high levels over a span of several months may experience irregular menstrual periods and smaller ovaries.

For these and additional concerns Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services urges residents within and outside the area to seek safety with friends and relatives further from the facility. Please remain calm and cautious of current and future road closures and weather events that may complicate the situation. Local officials have not called for a mandatory evacuation. T.e.j.a.s also urges the surrounding municipalities including but not limited to La Porte, Pasadena, Channelview, Baytown, Jacinto City and communities in the east end of Houston, Pleasantville, Northshore, Clinton Park, Denver Harbor, Magnolia Park, Kashmere Gardens, Greater fifth ward, Eastwood, Trinity Gardens, East Houston, Northeast Houston, and Eastex / Jensen, Northside Northline, and Acres Homes to take precautions and limit outdoor exposure due to unknown substances, debris and ash that may remain objects outdoors including grass, pools, outdoor furniture that the extinguished fire may carry have carried. Due to the concentration of production, storage and other sensitive materials in and around the area we remind the public to stay abreast of the situation and limit all outdoors exposures. Although the plume may have dissipated after fires were reported by ITC as extinguished, the danger of reigniting is still a possibility. This morning Benzene levels hazardous to human health were present in and around Deer Park triggering two shelter-in-place events in Deer Park and Galena Park. The cause has been stated as a tank contain PYGAS a gasoline blend. The frequency of events endangers public health such as the fire at the **ExxonMobil** facility on **March 16, 2019** in Baytown, Texas and this continuing disaster we remain adamant that local, county and state officials create a **regional air toxics plan** and support the implementation of the **Chemical Disaster Rule** to prevent the endangerment of populations sitting on the fenceline of these hazardous facilities and catastrophic events.

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services is not a government agency or county entity to mandate evacuation. We are a 501(c)3 registered environmental advocacy nonprofit, that seeks to educate and inform communities on the environmental issues of concern.



²Agency for Toxic Substance Control & Disease Registry, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=295&tid=53>

³Center for International Environmental Law, <https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Plastic-and-Health-The-Hidden-Costs-of-a-Plastic-Planet-February-2019.pdf>



Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services

Tank	Product	Estimated Volume (bbls) as reported by ITC March 17, 2019	Current Status
1	yubase	56030	Involved
2	Gasoline Blendstock	29289	Involved
3	Gasoline Blendstock	59927	Involved
4	yubase	46948	Involved
5	xylenes	38330	Involved
6	Gasoline Blendstock	48147	Involved
7	Pygas	42680	Involved
8	Naptha	69329	Involved
9	EMPTY		Collapsed
10	Pygas	19281	Not on fire
11	SN115	61260	Burned out
12	EMPTY		Collapsed
13	Toluene	15413	Not on fire
14	Pygas	25282	Burned out
15	Pygas	9354	Burned out

PYGAS – is a gas blend with HIGH BENZENE content

Following proper Shelter-in-place protocol remember to store medications and any necessary items/documents near you. Sensitive populations may be especially susceptible to these events including those with ailments, children and the elderly.

What does Shelter-in-place mean?

Go inside immediately. Close and secure all doors and windows. Turn off all ventilation systems (air conditioning, heating). Bring pets indoors. Listen to the radio or television and watch for visible smoke. It is important to consider the temperature. For a full step-by-step please visit: www.tejasbarrios.org

Note: All plant information was gathered from the Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC official company website <http://www.itym.com/news/>

ITC Public Information Office – ITC representative – Alice Richardson

Facility information charts were gathered from: City of Deer Park and EPA region 6

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (T.e.j.a.s.) is a 501c3 registered nonprofit, dedicated to providing community members with the tools necessary to create sustainable, environmentally healthy communities by educating individuals on health concerns and implications arising from environmental pollution, empowering individuals with an understanding of applicable environmental laws and regulations and promoting their enforcement, and offering community building skills and resources for effective community action and greater public participation.