

Corpus Christi Refinery Row (CCRR) Community Activity Report

Corpus Christi, Texas

Volume 2, Issue 1, May 2013



To the Corpus Christi Community:

We're glad to bring you Volume 2, Issue 1 of the Corpus Christi Refinery Row (CCRR) Community Activity Report. This issue has news from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (OEJTA), the Regional Health Awareness Board (RHAB), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

We encourage state, local, civic, business, and community groups that are involved with environmental and public health activities in the CCRR areas to submit news for the CCRR Community Activity Report. Check with Sylvia Allen-Lewis, Health Education Specialist with ATSDR's Division of Community Health Investigations, at 1-770-488-0728 or toll free at 1-888-778-6734. ATSDR welcomes comments to make future reports better.

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Review of Soil Sampling Data in Dona Park



The Dona Park Neighborhood is south of the former ASARCO/Encycle Facility in Corpus Christi, Texas. Beginning in 1941 and until 1985, ASARCO operated a smelter that produced high-grade zinc. Releases from the smokestack, northwest of the Dona Park Neighborhood, were a potential source of contamination to nearby residential area. In response to community concerns, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) collected soil samples from residential lots in 2010 and 2011. The TCEQ requested that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) evaluate the soil data to find out whether exposure to the levels of contaminants in the soil could cause health effects. The data evaluation is now complete, and the report can be found on the Texas Department of State Health Services website.

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=8589976167>

For any questions regarding the Dona Park Health Consultation, you can call the Texas Department of State Health Services at 1-800-588-1248.



Map provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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Corpus Christi Special Environmental Investigations Project Status Overviews

Dona Park Neighborhood Assessment (DPNA)

Status: Completed. All environmental issues needing action have been addressed.

Summary: The TCEQ was given approval (by residents) to sample 486 out of 584 yards in the Dona Park neighborhood. The DPNA used results to point out yards needing corrective action, which was completed in August 2011. Our files show that five yards had not been remediated in the past. No drums or any major concentrations of chemicals of concern (COCs) were observed in the vacant lot subsurface investigation. The TCEQ continues the Ambient Air Monitoring program in the Dona Park neighborhood during demolition actions at the ASARCO/Encycle site.

Hillcrest Community Environmental Investigation (HCEI)

Status: Completed. We don't expect that exposures to the levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) observed in groundwater and subsurface soil samples will cause harmful health effects.

Summary: Phase I (soil-gas) and Phase II (subsurface soil and groundwater) of the HCEI have been completed. The measured levels of all VOCs, PAHs, and TPH from both TCEQ and EPA groundwater samples were below their individual screening values. The HCEI found chlorinated solvents outside the borders of the Flint Hills East refinery and found TPH outside the borders for the former Kerr-McGee tank farm. These chemicals were also below their individual screening values. TCEQ and EPA asked Flint Hills East Refinery to proactively expand its onsite corrective action and detail these efforts in response to the HCEI data for the detected chlorinated solvents. More complete information is on hand at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/toxicology/research/hillcrest.html>



The LEPC helps to increase public knowledge and information on chemicals at individual facilities, their uses, and releases into the environment. LEPCs are volunteer organizations that are made up of emergency responders, industry, government, education, media, and community groups. Their main functions are to provide for joint emergency planning, training, and public outreach. As a result, communities, working with industry, are better able to protect public health and the environment.

In Texas, there are 270 LEPCs, one for every county, with the exceptions of Crosby (2), and Harris (17) counties which have multiple LEPCs. In addition to multiple LEPC counties, several LEPCs throughout the state are combined (for example, the Coastal Plain LEPC consists of San Patricio, Refugio, and Aransas counties).

The City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County are partners in a local agreement which provides that the City administer the LEPC program for the entire county. The LEPC is administered through the Corpus Christi Fire Department with Fire Chief, Richard Hooks, serving as the Chairperson.

The LEPC encourages residents to:



"Bee Prepared for Chemical Emergencies"

Remember: In an emergency should you Shelter In Place or Go?

Chemical accidents do happen and happen quickly! And in an emergency it takes time to get information, make evaluations, and then get people and equipment rolling. In a chemical emergency we are on our own for a while, because even the best responders take some time to arrive at the scene, evaluate the incident, and then respond to the situation. So it's up to us to be prepared with our own Personal Safety Plan.

You have a Safety Plan, Right?

Like most people, you already have planned ahead for a hurricane...or a flood...or fire. You know that loss of lives and property can result from a lack of planning. So plan ahead for any possible Chemical Emergency. Only you can do this... Use your SENSES.

1. **SEE** a cloud hugging the ground
2. **SMELL** a sharp odor
3. **HEAR** an explosion
4. **TASTE** some bitter gas
5. **FEEL** skin, eyes or throat irritation

With the proper knowledge you can determine what is the best plan for you if your senses experience any of the previously mentioned events.

For more information check out our LEPC website at www.cclepc.org or contact:

LEPC, Attn: Maricela Cuevas (Administrator), City of Corpus Christi/ Nueces County
2406 Leopard Street,
Corpus Christi, Texas 78408
1-361-826-3960
email: marim@cctexas.com

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The Regional Health Awareness Board (RHAB) has a new information service available to residents of the Texas Coastal Bend through its toll free number. This service provides residents information on times and neighborhood locations of public meetings, regarding environmental concerns. To hear the announcements,

dial 1-877-412-RHAB (7422) and choose Option 2. To speak to or leave a message for the Board Administrator, choose Option 1.

The RHAB is funded by the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, and San Patricio County. Its purpose is to inform people, governments, and industry on issues of public health, safety, and the

environment. The RHAB meets every month on the 4th Thursday from 4:00 – 6:00 PM in the 6th floor conference room at Corpus Christi City Hall. Meetings are open to the public and held in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act.

For more information about the RHAB and its projects, visit www.coastalbendrhab.org.



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Justice

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) was formed in 1994 under Executive Order (EO) 12898 PDF (6 pp, 123K, About PDF). The role of the EJ IWG is to guide, support and adds to federal environmental justice and community-based actions. The EJ IWG is made of 17 federal agencies and several White House offices.

The EJ IWG's mission, related records and other facts are on the following Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/interagency/>.

In 2011, the EJ IWG conducted a series of stakeholder conversation sessions across the United States. EPA Region 6, which includes Texas, hosted three sessions in Tulsa, OK, New Orleans, LA, and Albuquerque, NM. Stakeholders included

grassroots communities; federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies; business/industry; academics and other interested parties. These meetings provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss best practices and model programs.

On April 19, 2012 the EJ IWG met in Corpus Christi, Texas, to discuss environmental justice issues. The day started with tours of the Colonias and of Refinery Row, with the IWG Session in the evening.

During the Refinery Row tour and during the meeting, many of the 150 attendees raised the following concerns:

- A proposed new bridge in the area that would extend over to the fence line communities and further contribute to environmental exposure.
- Plant flaring with loud noises any time during the day or night.

- Inadequate notification of releases and activities at the plants. Attendees felt that given the conditions of many of the homes, "shelter in place" was an unacceptable option.
- Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) releases from the plants. Attendees identified HF releases as having the most effect on community members' health.
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children in the Dona Park community. Attendees said ADHD was a major indication of local and state agencies failing to address area contamination adequately.

Attendees at the EJ IWG meeting, with its partners, discussed these issues and opened up a continuing dialogue on how local, state, and the federal government might come together and work effectively with communities facing environmental justice issues.

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ATSDR

What is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)?

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We are based in Atlanta, Georgia, and have a satellite office in Dallas, Texas. ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances. For more information about ATSDR, please visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov

The Public Health Assessment (PHA)

The PHA examines outdoor air pollutant levels along Refinery Row to see if they are at levels that could harm the health of residents. If harmful chemical levels are found, the PHA will recommend ways to protect people's health.

- Over the last two and a half years, ATSDR gathered data from stationary and mobile outdoor air monitors in the Corpus Christi Refinery Row area. We are putting air data from the mid-1990s through the end of 2010 into an electronic database. The database will allow us to look at:
 - » Chemical levels
 - » Weather data (wind speed, wind direction, temperature), to see whether any trends are influencing Refinery Row area measured chemical levels. Benzene levels would be one such measured chemical.

- ATSDR is now looking at health effects data to include in our PHA report. We are using information from ATSDR toxicological profiles, recently published studies, and other sources. The health effects data describe experimental (animal) and epidemiologic (human) study results
 - » For both short- and long-term chemical exposures
 - » For both non-cancer and cancer health endpoints
 - » On chemical mixtures (if this information is available)

This type of information will compare site-specific air contaminant exposure estimates with contaminant levels that may or may not be harmful.

- As part of our report, ATSDR will review data from the Texas Department of State Health Services Asthma Control Program, Birth Defects Registry, Cancer Registry, and Diabetes Program to help describe the trends in new illness cases in the Corpus Christi Refinery Row area. We are:
 - » checking age-adjusted asthma hospital stay rates for Nueces County and San Patricio County compared with all of Texas.
 - » comparing the number of birth defect cases in the newborns of mothers living in Refinery Row area with Corpus Christi areas farther away.
 - » checking the number of cancer cases in the Refinery Row area using the most recent information for both males and females.
 - » comparing the age-adjusted estimate of adults diagnosed with diabetes living in Nueces County and San Patricio County with the age-adjusted occurrence of diabetes for the state of Texas.

- Later this year, community members can expect to see a public comment version of the PHA with our findings. Every person in the community will have the chance to look at the PHA and comment on the results. ATSDR will look at all the comments and make sure that the comments and responses to them are in the final report.

Health Promotion/Education Activities

ATSDR works with local healthcare and state and federal agencies to give people information they can use to improve their health. In 2011, the agency hosted several environmental health and safety workshops.

Our "It's All About Your Health" workshops helped community residents learn more about

- How to avoid exposure to dangerous chemicals
- Practical tips for a safe and healthy home.
- Emergency evacuation planning and safety.

Last year, ATSDR participated in the Nueces County Medical Society Health Fair on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at the American Bank Center, 1901 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi, TX 78401. Community members were able to talk to ATSDR staffers about agency activities in the Corpus Christi community. Almost 5,000 people attended the fair for free health testing and health information.

For more news on ATSDR activities, please call: Sylvia Allen-Lewis at 1-888-778-6734 or e-mail SAllen-Lewis@cdc.gov

Community Events

Restore the Gulf, 2013

Corpus Christi Mayor, Nelda Martinez, asked stakeholders in the Coastal Bend region to provide ideas on how to cooperate with the State of Texas BP Deepwater Horizon trustees and federal

agencies in best allocating existing and future oil spill settlement dollars. The meeting was held on April 10, 2013 at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, 3209 South Staples Street, Corpus Christi, TX from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. The Mayor is still seeking broad, far-reaching and regionally-focused public input on the front end of the City's planning and visioning process as a guide to how

Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region can participate in environmental and economic restoration. For more information contact Sharon Bailey Lewis at email: SharonL@cctexas.com or 361-826-4066.

