

ATSDR Progress Report

October 2010

ATSDR activities in Corpus Christi, TX

Summary

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR's) top priority is ensuring that people are safe from exposure to hazardous substances. For the Corpus Christi Refinery Row site, we are engaged in

1. an exposure investigation
2. a public health assessment, and
3. health promotion and community involvement activities.

This progress report describes the status of ATSDR's work in the Refinery Row area. Refinery Row refers to approximately 5 miles of petrochemical facilities surrounded by residential neighborhoods.

Exposure Investigation

ATSDR and the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) conducted an exposure investigation (EI) that measured people's present exposure to benzene and other airborne chemicals. Area residents participated in the investigation by providing blood, urine, and personal air samples.

ATSDR is preparing a report that will discuss how the exposure levels found during the EI compare to levels in the general US population. The report will be available in November 2010 on the ATSDR Web site and at two area locations.

Public Health Assessment

ATSDR is preparing a public health assessment (PHA) that evaluates whether outdoor air chemical levels are or have been high enough to affect the health of residents in surrounding neighborhoods. Since January 2010, we have

- drafted background sections,
- obtained and compiled outdoor air monitoring data,
- gathered information from literature searches about health effects for many of the chemicals of interest, and
- created an advisory group to assist with guidance and feedback related to our health outcome data evaluation.

During our investigations, we found additional sources of information, including reports on air quality and modeled air data. The residents of this area deserve the best work we can deliver. We are therefore delaying the release of the PHA until all available information has been reviewed and evaluated. Conducting a quality review takes time; we plan to release the PHA in fall 2011.

Health Promotion and Community Involvement Activities

ATSDR is engaged in health promotion and community involvement activities. We are working collaboratively with local healthcare agencies and federal agencies.

Community Meeting

ATSDR and NCEH will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2010, from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. During the meeting, we will share information on the status of our activities in Corpus Christi. We will also be available to answer questions from community members about our work at the Refinery Row site. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will participate and be available to answer questions too. The community meeting will be held at:

Oveal Williams Senior Center

1414 Martin Luther King

Corpus Christi, TX

Phone: (361) 887-7633



ATSDR and NCEH have a strong commitment to the health of the people of Corpus Christi. We believe regular communications are an essential part of our work with communities. As we move forward, ATSDR and NCEH are committed to working closely with you and keeping you updated on our activities.

