

# Chemical Industry Hurricane Preparedness

Pasadena CAC April 2020





## **Preparedness Priorities**

Preparation is the key to addressing the potential dangers of hurricanes. For that reason, chemical facilities take steps well in advance of a storm's arrival with the following priorities in mind:

- Protect employees and surround community
- Prevent the release of chemicals
- Restore operations and production essential to producing vital everyday items

### Hurricane Hazards

Each hurricane is unique but there are three common hazards that chemical facilities address through a wide-range of protective measures:

- High Winds
- Storm Surge
- Excessive Rain



## **Facility Protective Measures**

- Construction
- Planning
- Preparation
- Operations
- Monitoring
- Communications
- Personnel
- Inspections



Chemical facilities are designed and built to withstand major storms. Specific construction elements can include:

- Hardening operations to withstand damaging winds
- Building dikes/levees to contain spills
- Elevating equipment and key operations to avoid flooding
- Constructing barriers to hold back storm surge



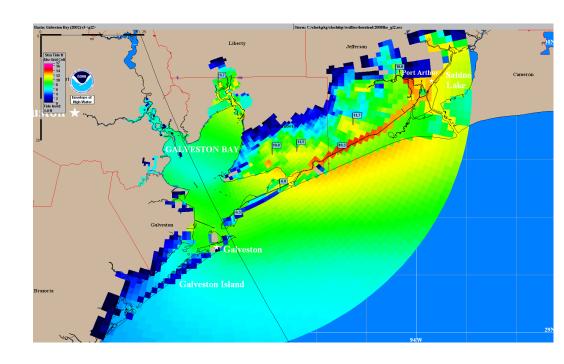
Chemical facilities maintain a set of comprehensive emergency plans for various weather events including hurricanes. These plans are tested and drilled regularly. The plans address a variety of emergency scenarios and outline criteria that would trigger different actions.

Example: When the wind gets to X miles per hour or the water gets to Y feet above normal level, the facility will shut down.

## **Storm Modeling**

Chemical facilities utilize the Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model, a computerized numerical model developed by the National Weather Service (NWS), to estimate storm surge heights resulting from historical, hypothetical, or predicted hurricanes by taking into account the atmospheric pressure, size, forward speed, and track data. These parameters are used to create a model of the wind field which drives the storm surge.

The SLOSH model consists of a set of physics equations which are applied to a specific locale's shoreline, incorporating the unique bay and river configurations, water depths, bridges, roads, levees and other physical features.





Chemical facilities take a wide range of steps to safeguard their facility well in advance of June 1<sup>st</sup> hurricane season including:

- Review and update facility Hurricane Plan
- Inventory and restock hurricane supplies (for storm ride out crew)
- Obtain Essential Personnel Credentials from Harris County Office of Emergency Mgt
- Solicit storm ride out crew volunteers
- Conduct hurricane specific safety training
- Review and update rental equipment needs (generators, pumps, etc.)
- Verify employee emergency contact information
- Distribute hurricane communication information to employees



When a tropical storm or hurricane enters or forms in the Gulf of Mexico, chemical facilities begin tracking and start preparations including:

- Track the storm's predicted path
- Confirm availability of rental equipment



48-72 hours prior to a predicted landfall impacting LaPorte, chemical facilities will determine if they will continue operating or shutdown. Preparations continue including:

- Confirm availability of ride out crew members
- Test backup generators and pumps
- Fill equipment and vehicles with fuel
- Secure tanks and cooling towers
- Secure equipment, buildings and loose objects
- Move materials to higher ground or inside buildings
- Couple railcars together and apply brakes
- Stage rental equipment
- Begin orderly shutdown of facility (if determined to be appropriate)

## **Storm Forecasting**

Chemical facilities utilize professional weather services to provide custom actionable forecasts for each tropical storm or hurricane that allows them to make the best decisions.

#### Trigger Report – Tropical Storm Imelda Adv #1

Issued: 12:00PM CDT Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Current Conditions		Forecast Conditions		
Location	28.7N / 95.4W - 73 miles SSW	Max Forecast Winds	40 mph gusting 50 mph (TS)	
Movement	N @ 6 mph	Max Forecast HSI	2 (1 size / 1 intensity)	
RPA Status	Negative	Hours to Next Trigger Point	N/A	
Winds	40 mph gusting 50 mph (TS)	Estimated Next Trigger Point Reached	N/A	
Current HSI	2 (1 size / 1 intensity)			
Current Indicated Phase	N/A			



Note: Hours remaining is calculated from the above issue time.

Wind Field Forecast and Worst-Case Arrival Times at Deer Park, TX							
Forecast ETA			Worst-Case ETA		Probability of Wind Impact		
Wind Field	Hrs. Until Arrival	Arrival Time/Date	Duration	Hrs. Until Arrival	Arrival Time/Date	Value	Trend
39mph	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	4PM Tue Sep 17	20%	N/A
58mph	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<1%	N/A

Phase	Trigger Parameter	Trigger Reached?	Estimated Hours Remaining and Time
1	RPA+	No	Trigger not forecast to be met
II	WCS39 < 72 and PWI58 > 15%	No	Trigger not fully met
III	WCS39 < 48 and PWI58 > 25%	No	Trigger not fully met
IV	FTA39 < 24 and PWI58 > 50%	No	Trigger not forecast to be met
V	Sustained winds fall below 39mph	No	Trigger not forecast to be met

	Predicted Conditions for Your Deer Park, TX facility					
Discussion	Imelda is predicted to track inland near Freeport over the next several hours then track across the greater Houston area tonight and on Wednesday. The main threat inland across southeast Texas will be from heavy rainfall over the next 48 hours as bands of squalls stream inland mainly east of the depression's track across southeast Texas.					
	General rainfall amounts of 6-12 inches over the next 48 hours as bands of squalls stream inland into the greater Houston/Galveston area. Some locations could receive over 18 inches of rain between now and Friday morning.					
Storm Surge	Tides along the upper Texas coast are running 1-2 feet above normal today due to moderate onshore winds. Tides will slowly diminish on Wednesday as onshore winds decrease.					



Companies may reduce operations, shut down a facility, and/or evacuate personnel in advance of a hurricane. Shutting down and restarting a chemical facility is a complicated and time consuming process that must be done carefully to ensure the safety of employees and minimize emissions. To ensure that this is done as safely as possible, special regulations and emissions limits apply to periods of startup and shutdown. Facilities have plans for safe shutdown and restart of processes, as well as safety and security plans for securing the premises during a shutdown.

## **Industry Status Board**

**East Harris County** Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) maintains an **Industry Status Board in** conjunction with Local **Emergency Planning** Committees (LEPCs) to keep emergency officials abreast of facility status, number of personnel onsite and emergency contact information.





#### CURRENT STATUS for Oxy Vinyls, L.P. - La Porte VCM **FULLY STAFFED** 539B Organization Name: Oxy Vinyls, L.P. - La Porte VCM Key Map Location: Location Name: La Porte VCM GPS Longitude: 95.07834 2400 Miller Cut-Off Rd 29.72480 Location Address: GPS Latitude: Assistance Requested (CIMA): La Porte City: County: Harris TX - 77571-9759 Resources Requested(CIMA): State & Zip Code: Location Main Phone: Primary Contact Name Todd Behne Contact Phone Number: Are you able to respond: No Contact Cell Phone # Employees to Respond: Available Resources: Contact Satellite Phone: Contact Email Address: todd\_behne@oxy.com CIMA Member: Yes Response Equipment: CIMA Zone: 3 ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION OEM Staff: No Location Registration Date: 8/7/2007 1:08:51 PM Location Web Site: Secondary Contact Name: Joseph Munn Production Manager Primary Contact Name Todd Behne Secondary Contact Job Title: Primary Contact Job Title: Plant Manager; Secondary Contact Phone: Primary Contact Phone: Secondary Contact Cell: Primary Contact Cell: Secondary Contact Pager: Primary Contact Pager: Secondary Contact Satellite Phone:

Secondary Contact Email:

ROC OFF SITE ACTIVATED:

ROC OFF Site City:

ROC OFF Site State:

ROC OFF Site Zip:

ROC OFF Site County:

ROC OFF Site Building:

ROC OFF Site Key Map:

ROC OFF Site Supervisor:

ROC OFF Site 24 Hour Phone:

ROC OFF Site GPS Longitude:

ROC OFF Site Number of Employees:

ROC OFF Site Supervisors Phone:

ROC OFF Site Supervisors Cell:

ROC OFF Site Contact Job Title:

ROC OFF Site Contact Name:

ROC OFF Site Contact Cell:

ROC OFF Site Contact Email:

ROC OFF Site LAN Number:

ROC OFF Site Cell Phone:

ROC OFF Site Satellite Phone:

**ROC OFF Site Employees Names:** 

ROC OFF Site GPS Latitude:

Ride Out Crew Located OFFSITE? ROC OFF Site Address:

RIDE OUT CREW INFORMATION

joseph\_munn@oxy.com

1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM

710 W. San Augustine

Deer Park High School South Campus

Deer Park

TX.

77536

Harris

EXT.:

Primary Contact Satellite Phone:

todd\_behne@oxy.com

3/17/2020 8:03:26 AM

2400 Miller Cut-Off Rd

T.:

No

LaPorte

Harris

95.07834

29.72480

539B

TX - 77571

Control Room

NO Date/Time Activated: 1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM

Primary Contact Email:

Ride Out Crew Activated?

Ride Out Crew Address:

Ride Out Crew County:

Ride Out Crew Building:

Key Map Location:

Ride Out Crew State and Zip:

Ride Out Crew 24 Hour Phone:

Ride Out Crew GPS Longitude:

Ride Out Crew Number Employees:

Ride Out Crew Supervisors Phone:

Ride Out Crew Supervisors Cell:

Ride Out Crew Contact Job Title:

Ride Out Crew Contact Name:

Ride Out Crew Contact Cell:

Ride Out Crew Contact Email:

Ride Out Crew LAN Number:

Ride Out Crew Cell Phone:

Ride Out Crew Satellite Phone:

Ride Out Crew 24 Hour Number:

Ride Out Crew Employees Names:

Ride Out Crew GPS Latitude:

Ride Out Crew Supervisor:

Ride Out Crew City:

Personnel Status Last Updated:

Ride Out Crew Located ONSITE?



When feasible, emergency "ride out" crews are used to closely monitor the facilities during the storm. The crews consist of employees who are well trained to deal with the emergency situations and make on the spot decisions to keep everyone safe. Any incidents or releases are reported to local authorities and government agencies.

## Communications

Companies confirm contact information with emergency personnel and employees. They also form backup plans for breakdowns and share those with local emergency planning committees (LEPCs). Facilities have backup communication with emergency officials including:

- Satellite phones
- Satellite internet access
- 2-way radios



Facilities work with employees to prepare family preparedness plans and provide temporary housing, transportation, basic amenities, and medical support for workers impacted by the storm.

Communication systems are put in place to track the safe whereabouts of employees and assess their needs.



## **Post Storm Inspections**

Before allowing employees back onsite or restoring operations, post storm assessment teams assess the facility for any damage or remaining hazards. To facilitate re-entry, these key individuals will be issued Harris County Essential Personnel Credentials prior to evacuation. For safety reasons, access to certain areas of the facility can be restricted to essential personnel until operations come fully online.

