

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

Chemical Industry Hurricane Preparedness

April 28, 2020

A group of active Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) community and plant members recently met for the first time in their nearly 30 year history without being in the same room together. Participating by videoconference or telephone, participants heard Michael Shirey, Health, Environmental, Safety and Security Manager for Oxy Vinyls, describe how the chemical industry prepares for hurricanes.

Preparation is the key to addressing the potential dangers of hurricanes. Chemical facilities take steps to protect employees and the surrounding community, prevent the release of chemicals to the environment, and restore operations and production essential to producing vital everyday items. Shirey stated that facilities maintain comprehensive emergency plans for various types of weather. The plans must be tested and drilled on a regular basis. Chemical facilities start the hurricane planning process well in advance of the beginning of hurricane season. Despite any challenges of operating during COVID-19, Pasadena plants are reviewing and revising their hurricane plans as they do each year before the season starts June 1. Weather forecasters predict 2020 will be an active season. See accompanying slides for details.