



# U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

## RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE

### SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	DuPont La Porte Facility Toxic Chemical Release
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2015-01-I-TX-R9
<b>Date Issued:</b>	June 25, 2019
<b>Recipient:</b>	International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC)
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	June 25, 2019

#### Recommendation Text:

*Work together with DuPont [Corteva Agriscience] to develop and implement the emergency response plan described in Recommendation R8 (2015-01-I-TX-R8).*

#### Board Status Change Decision:

##### A. Rationale for Recommendation

On November 15, 2014, approximately 24,000 pounds of highly toxic methyl mercaptan was released from an insecticide production unit (Lannate® Unit) at the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont) chemical manufacturing facility in La Porte, Texas. The release killed three operators and a shift supervisor inside a manufacturing building. They died from a combination of asphyxia and acute exposure (by inhalation) to methyl mercaptan.

Among other issues, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) determined that the emergency response efforts at the DuPont La Porte facility during the toxic chemical release were disorganized and placed at risk operators, emergency responders, and potentially the public. The chemical facility lacked a robust emergency response program necessary to mitigate emergencies as well as to protect the health of workers, emergency responders, and the public.