



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	DuPont La Porte Facility Toxic Chemical Release
Recommendation Number:	2015-01-I-TX-R9
Date Issued:	June 25, 2019
Recipient:	International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC)
New Status:	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response
Date of Status Change:	January 20, 2021

Recommendation Text:

Work together with DuPont [Corteva Agriscience] to develop and implement the emergency response plan described in Recommendation R8 (2015-01-1-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 fatally injured three operators and a shift supervisor inside a manufacturing building. Their deaths resulted 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 operators, emergency responders, and, potentially, the public at unnecessary risk. 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. Consequently, the Board issued a recommendation to the DuPont La Porte, Texas, chemical facility to update numerous provisions of its site emergency response plan (e.g., CSB Recommendation No. 2015-01-I-TX-R8). The Board also issued a parallel recommendation to the ICWUC to work together with DuPont in revising the site emergency response plan. This status change summary only addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2015-01-I-TX-R9 issued to the ICWUC.

B. Response to the Recommendation

In May 2020, the ICWUC replied to the CSB that progress has been made on revising the La Porte site's emergency response plan, but that several issues still need to be resolved due to coordination issues among the four different companies that are currently operating the site.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

As progress is being made and the ICWUC is working with the four site member companies to finalize and implement a revised site emergency response plan and procedures, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2015-01-I-TX-R9 to: "Open—Acceptable Response or Alternative Response."