



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	Enterprise Pascagoula Gas Plant Explosion and Fire
Recommendation Number:	2016-02-I-MS-R5
Date Issued:	February 13, 2019
Recipient:	Jackson County Local Emergency Planning Committee
New Status:	Open –Acceptable Response or Alternative Response
Date of Status Change:	June 27, 2019

Recommendation Text:

Work with members (industry, emergency response, community) to explicitly define the communication methods for community notification and incident updates (e.g., social media, local news outlets, passive phone system), and the expectations for their use, so that members of the public can efficiently and effectively obtain current safety information. Publish these defined community notification methods and expectations for use on the most appropriate mediums available, such as the Jackson County Emergency Management website, the Jackson County LEPC website, and the social media outlets Jackson County utilizes to disseminate safety information to the community.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On June 27, 2016, a major loss of containment (LOC) resulted in the release of methane, ethane, propane, and several other hydrocarbons at the Enterprise Products Pascagoula Gas Plant (PGP) in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The hydrocarbons ignited, initiating a series of fires and explosions, which ultimately shut down the site for almost six months. Two workers were on the night shift when the incident occurred and were uninjured.

In addition to other issues, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's (CSB) report discusses issues related to emergency response following the incident. Although no off-site property damage was reported, many nearby residents chose to evacuate. After the incident, members of the local community expressed concern to the CSB that since the reverse 9-11 system was not used, some residents did not know how to react. Additionally, the CSB found that though there were emergency communication methods in place, there was no guidance related to the expectations of their use. Given this information, the CSB made a recommendation to the Jackson County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). This Status Change Summary addresses **CSB Recommendation No. 2016-02-I-MS-R5**.

B. Response to the Recommendation

The Jackson County Office of Emergency Services, working with the LEPC confirmed its intentions to implement the CSB Recommendation, provided some information as to their progress as well as an approximate timeline for completion. Specifically, they:

- Contracted with a new mass notification company called Civic Ready and are working with to implement all available features offered by Civic Ready Mass Notifications.
- Provided eight separate individual groups that citizens can choose from to be alerted to include Hazardous Material Releases and Shelter in Place notifications.
- Are adding more features to include evacuation notices.
- Implemented and successfully tested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) / Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) alerts.
- Are working with County Public Information Office to include the Jackson County Facebook page into the system as another alert group.
- Should be implemented and completed by the end of this month (June 2019) at the latest. Are working on media releases to send out to local news media outlets to encourage citizens to sign up for the notifications from Jackson County / Civic Ready.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based on the above information, the Board voted to change the status of **Recommendation No. 2016-02-I-MS-R5** to: “**Open--Acceptable Response or Alternative Response.**”