

Joint Oversight Hearing
Energy, Utilities and Communications and Environmental Quality Committees
Description of Incident and First Response
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1. CERTIFIED UNIFIED PROGRAM AGENCIES (CUPA)

- SB 1082 (Calderon 1993) consolidated local implementation of six hazardous waste/materials program elements into the CUPA.
- Participating Agencies (PAs) implement 1 or more program elements for CUPAs.
- LA County Fire is a CUPA and a PA (LA City, Santa Monica and Orange County).
- Consolidates permits, invoices, inspection and enforcement activities.
- Coordinates and consistently applies standards and regulations.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Eight CUPA's /10 PA's with LA County Fire.
- For Exxon Mobil, LA County Fire implements the hazardous waste generator requirements.
- Torrance is a PA City for USTs, Disclosure and Cal ARP.
- State Department of Toxic Substances and US EPA also has a presence and role.

SB 1082 Program Elements

- Hazardous Waste and Tiered Permitting (HW/TP)
- Hazardous Materials Business Plan and Inventory (Disclosure)
- California Accidental Release Prevention Program (CalARP)
- Underground Storage Tanks (UST)
- Aboveground Storage Tanks
- Fire Code

LA COUNTY CUPAs

- Los Angeles County Fire
- Los Angeles City Fire - LACoFD PA HW/TP
- El Segundo Fire
- Santa Fe Springs Fire
- Santa Monica Fire - LACoFD PA HW/TP
- Glendale Fire
- Long Beach Health
- Vernon Health

LA COUNTY FIRE PAs

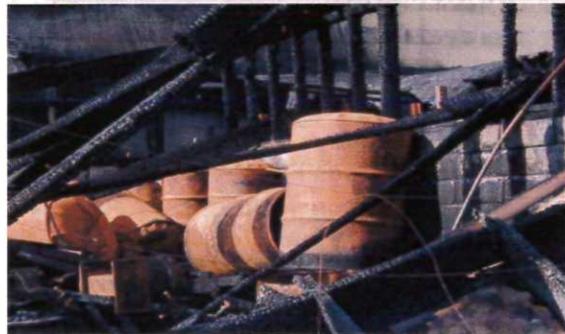
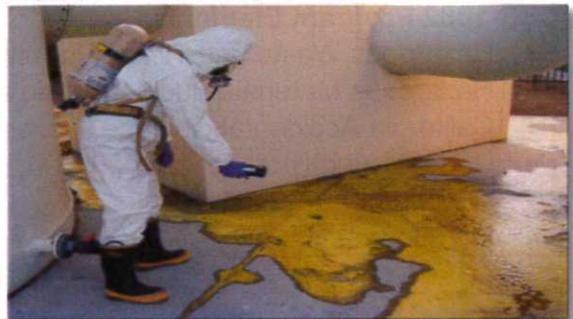
- Alhambra Fire - Disclosure/CalARP
- Burbank Fire - Disclosure/CalARP/UST
- Compton Fire - Disclosure/CalARP
- Culver City Fire - Disclosure/CalARP
- Downey Fire - Disclosure/CalARP
- Monrovia Fire - Disclosure /CalARP
- Pasadena Fire - Disclosure/CalARP/UST
- Redondo Beach Fire - Disclosure/CalARP
- Torrance Fire - Disclosure/CalARP/UST
- L.A. Co. DPW - UST
- L.A. Co. Agric. Comm - Disclosure/Ag Fac.

2. How is LA County UPA Involved with Emergencies?

- LA County Fire UPA/Health Haz-Mat Division (HHMD) responds to emergency incidents throughout the county either as part of our jurisdiction or upon request (for example if El Segundo requests our assistance).
- HHMD was born in the Department of Public Health and transferred to the Fire Department in 1991 – deputy health officers/responsibilities.

3. What responsibilities does HHMD have?

- Work with the Incident Commander (IC) during the dynamic stage to stabilize or bring to a conclusion.
- Assist in identifying unknowns
- Address public or environmental impacts of decisions
- Public and responder health and safety
- Coordination of “environmental” efforts
- Remediation
- Personnel and public decontamination
- Plume monitoring with SCAQMD
- Investigations related to UPA program elements
- Interaction with medical liaisons / hospitals
- Declaring site safe for re-occupancy where necessary
- Identifying responsible parties (RP’s) and issuing directives
- Funding remediation via RP’s or other agencies



LA County Fire Department Health Haz-Mat Emergency Operations

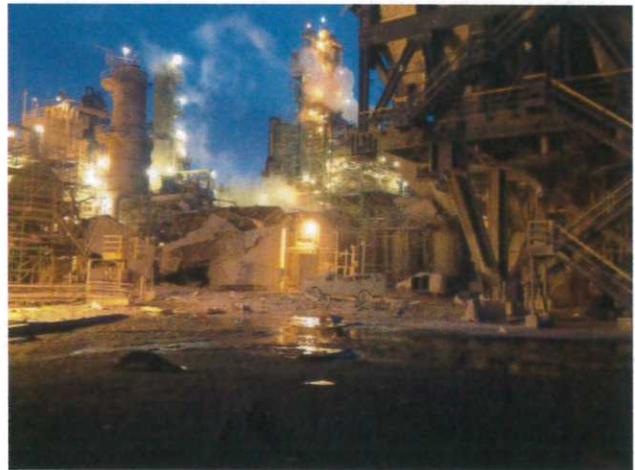
4. EXXON MOBIL EVENT

- Arrived on scene with two 2-person teams and a supervisor.
- Began fielding questions from a variety of people including the IC / Entry Teams.
- Began work to assess offsite consequences.
- Coordinated with a number of different agencies arriving on scene.

- Investigated and addressed concerns:
 - Potential for further explosions.
 - Radiation source (Ce 137) – determined not to be present.
 - Catalyst dispersion into the community and components. Investigation ongoing.
 - Mitigation onsite and offsite of any catalyst/debris
 - Disposal of debris from the explosion
 - Arsenic in low levels but above background levels
 - Discussion with our medical liaison from Public Health
 - Asbestos – SCAQMD.
 - Public notifications – PIO releases / public alerts.



Location of the Exxon/Mobil explosion.



Catalyst involved in the incident offsite and onsite. Lower Left: Scott Robinson Honda Dealer, 20340 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance, CA 90503.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

- Rapid communications to the public
- Improve and clarify the public message
- Need to drill
- Agency coordination of offsite consequences

6. CONCLUSIONS

- Engaged in almost daily correspondence and conference calls with the refinery.
- Still actively investigating the catalyst and incident cause.
- Each agency is critiquing their response including ours, and soon we will be gathering all agencies to have a broader discussion of the response to see if there are additional lessons learned.
- Shared experiences with other LA Co refineries.

Testimony 1 Incident and 1st Response Mar 5F