



## U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	Enterprise Pascagoula Gas Plant Explosion and Fire
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2016-02-I-MS-R5
<b>Date Issued:</b>	February 13, 2019
<b>Recipient:</b>	Jackson County Local Emergency Planning Committee
<b>New Status:</b>	Closed – Acceptable Action
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	October 26, 2021

### 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 (OES) worked with the LEPC to aggressively implement the CSB Recommendation. They established the following website where any member of the community can go which has all LEPC information: <http://www.jclepc.org/>. There it provides information on the community alert system which is

called CIVIC READY which takes you to the following website to sign up: <https://www.co.jackson.ms.us/553/Emergency-Notifications>. From here any member of the community can select whatever emergency information they would like to receive via text, e-mail, or voice message. There are social media options as well. Each information group has guidance on the information provided. Specifically, Jackson County OES took the following actions (not all inclusive):

- Contracted with a new mass notification company called Civic Ready to implement all available features offered by Civic Ready Mass Notifications.
- Provided several individual groups that citizens can choose from to be alerted to include Hazardous Material Releases and Shelter in Place notifications.
- Added additional features that include evacuation notices.
- Implemented the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) / Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) alerts.
- Worked with County Public Information Office to include the Jackson County Facebook page into the system as another alert group.

#### 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: “**Closed - Acceptable Action.**”