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[CSB Urges Oil and Chemical Facilities to Take Special Safety Precautions during Startups Following Hurricane Harvey](#)

[Source: U.S. Chemical Safety Board, August 27, 2017](#)

Washington, DC, August 27, 2017 -- The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) today issued a Safety Alert urging oil and chemical facilities to take special precautions when restarting in the wake of shutdowns due to Hurricane Harvey.

The startup of major processes at chemical facilities is a hazardous phase and facilities should pay particular attention to process safety requirements during this critical period to assure a safe and expeditious return to normal operations.

"Restarting a refinery poses a significant safety risk," said Chairperson Vanessa Allen Sutherland. "When operators follow established startup procedures and checklists, it reduces the risk [of] a catastrophic accident that could cost lives and incur substantial product disruptions."

Restarting a complex petrochemical process requires a higher level of attention and care than normal processing, because numerous activities are occurring simultaneously and many automatic systems are run under manual control. Because a significant number of facilities were shut down during Hurricane Harvey, there will be a significant number of facilities restarting, which will increase

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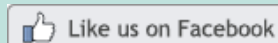
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the risk to safety.

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See their Safety Alert [here](#).

See from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, "[EPA/TCEQ statement on risk of additional fires at Arkema facility in Crosby](#)".

Also see from *The New York Times*, "[New Hazard in Storm Zone: Chemical Blasts and 'Noxious' Smoke](#)".

NIOSH - Emergency Response Resources

[Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, December 2016](#)

Chemical agent information is needed for workers to appropriately plan for risks resulting from possible chemical incidents. Several organizations have developed information databases, including short-term and long-term criteria, each with specific purposes, exposure scenarios, and severity of adverse health effects considered in their development.

[Read more...](#)

See a [Chemical Release Toolkit](#) with information for public health and emergency response professionals from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. See from the U.S. EPA information on [how to recover after flooding](#).

Also see from VelocityEHS, "[VelocityEHS Offering Emergency Responders, Businesses and Others Affected by Hurricane Harvey Free Access to Chemical Hazard Information to Help Keep Communities Safe](#)".

TURI's Note: See our [Environmental, Health and Safety Data Resources Guide](#), and [sign up](#) for our upcoming Sept. 12th Beyond the MSDS webinar.

After Harvey, Texas faces massive cleanup

[Source: Chemical & Engineering News, August 31, 2017](#)

Authors: Melody Bomgardner, Peter Bennett, Patrick Bennett, and Jyllian Kemsley

Five days of devastating rain from Tropical Storm Harvey left its mark on the Gulf Coast of Texas, home to more than 6 million people and a significant portion of the U.S. fuel and chemical industries.

As flood water recedes, residents, state and federal officials, and refinery and chemical plant managers are assessing the damage left in Harvey's wake.

Dozens of major manufacturing facilities were taken off-line before and during the storm. Experts say it is too early to clearly assess the amount of damage sustained by industry in the region and forecast it will take several weeks to restart the plants.

[Read more...](#)

See from *The Washington Post*, "[ExxonMobil refineries are damaged in Hurricane Harvey, releasing hazardous pollutants](#)".

Multiple September Trainings: MA Chemical Safety & Climate Change Preparedness

[Source: Toxics Use Reduction Institute, September 2017](#)

Through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) and seven Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) are conducting workshops designed to build awareness and educate Local and Regional Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs and REPCs), first responders, businesses and community stakeholders about toxic chemicals in their communities. This effort will build sustainable and replicable models for incorporating toxics use reduction into emergency preparedness and climate change resiliency planning.

[Read more...](#)

TURI's Note: This event is being offered by one of our sister agencies in the TURA Program, the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance and Technology.

Update of OECD QSAR Toolbox now available

[Source: European Chemicals Agency, August 8, 2017](#)

Helsinki, 8 August 2017 -- The Toolbox version 4.1 improves the functionalities of the major release (4.0) launched in April 2017. In addition, it introduces new features that are relevant for the REACH 2018 registrants:

- A new skin sensitisation database with standardised LLNA data from REACH registrations, which contains information on the potency of skin sensitisation;
- A new 'protein binding' for the skin sensitisation profiler that is compatible with the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation and the Globally Harmonised System (GHS);
- Import of predictions made with the Toolbox to IUCLID through Web Services;
- Document Save/Load feature, which enables you to save your workflow at any time;
- Updated repeated dose toxicity profiler and five other profilers, update of eight simulators; and
- New export of the data matrix to Excel without the need to perform a prediction.

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New Report Lays Out Strategy to Evaluate Evidence of Adverse Human Health Effects From Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals at Low Doses

[Source: The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, July 18, 2017](#)

WASHINGTON -- A new report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine proposes a strategy that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should use to evaluate the evidence of adverse human health effects from low doses of exposure to chemicals that can disrupt the endocrine system.

Endocrine active chemicals (EACs) or endocrine disruptors can cause a variation in normal hormone function. Even small alterations in hormone concentrations, particularly during embryonic development, can have lasting and significant effects. Some EACs have the potential to impact human health at lower doses than those used in traditional toxicity testing by the agency, which means that some effects may be missed.

[Read more...](#)

See article on the report from Silent Spring Institute, "[National Academies Report Proposes New Strategy for Evaluating Endocrine Disruptors](#)". See a [4-page summary](#) of the report. Access the full report [here](#).

Also see from Silent Spring Institute, "[The results of our biomonitoring study are in!](#)".

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