ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Refinery
Fire Response – February 2020

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, ExxonMobil experienced a fire in the ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Refinery. The fire was contained shortly after and fully extinguished at approximately 5:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The fire was contained to the area where it occurred. There were no injuries. ExxonMobil is proud of our volunteer fire responders who responded quickly and safely during the response.

Here are answers to questions you may have about the incident.

How and when did ExxonMobil notify folks about the fire?
ExxonMobil voluntarily began outreach to nearby neighbors and local elected officials within one hour via phone calls, emails, texts and the automated dialer notification system. The automated dialer notification system sent a notice to all residents within a one-mile radius. ExxonMobil also updated the community and our workforce through social media updates, interviews with on-scene media, neighbor updates and employee emails. ExxonMobil's CodeRed automated dialer system to allow individuals the ability to register for alerts. You can register with or without creating an account. If you would like to register, please visit **https://tinyurl.com/EMCodeRed**.

Who responded to the incident?
Approximately 75 trained ExxonMobil volunteer fire team members extinguished the fire. The Baton Rouge Fire Department Response & HAZMAT teams, the Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) were also on scene.

What did air monitoring show?
So far, there have been 12 rounds of ExxonMobil air monitoring, including six individual data sets totaling 720 readings. All readings have been below the state's ambient air standard for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), benzene, butadiene, SO2, H2S and carbon monoxide. These readings indicate that air quality has been protective of human health as set by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) established for worker safety.

Did the city or agencies notify the public?
Since air quality monitoring did not detect any impact outside of the site, assessments by HAZMAT, LDEQ and the Louisiana State Police indicated that neighbors did not need to take any action. Therefore, there was no alert needed from the city or agencies.

What are the next steps?
An investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of this incident. These findings will enable us to take corrective actions and apply preventive steps that are identified. We continue to keep safety at the forefront of all activities as we investigate this incident and work to restore normal operations.

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What emissions were reported?

Sites are required to report potential exceedance of reportable quantities of certain materials to the State Police within a one-hour timeframe. These reportable quantities are determined by state and federal regulators to determine air quality impacts. Air monitoring then provides us more exact information such as actual air quality readings in the community. In the recent Feb. 11 incident, the Baton Rouge Refinery reported potential exceedances on reportable quantities on several substances (of flammable vapors, 1,3-butadiene, SO2, benzene, H2S, sulfuric acid and oil to soil, which are used to make gasoline and other products) using conservative estimates based on initial data available at the time. Later, air monitoring throughout the incident assured us that there was no detectable levels of these substances in the community. We are continuing to calculate the data from the incident to provide more refined information to regulatory agencies.

What is the ExxonMobil Refinery's past environmental performance?

During the last five years, the Refinery has reduced its Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) emissions by 53 percent. A large component of this reduction can be attributed to a multi-million dollar voluntary upgrade in the refinery's wastewater treatment facilities. Most importantly, this decrease has been sustained even as environmental standards have changed and the list of chemicals included in TRI reporting has increased. Consistent with our commitment to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, in 2017 we voluntarily reduced sulfur dioxide emissions at the Baton Rouge Refinery. This investment resulted in a 79 percent decrease in sulfur dioxide emissions over the past five years with a historic low in 2018. This success was recognized by LDEQ with a 2019 Environmental Leadership Program Award. Emissions in Louisiana have fallen by as much as 66 percent since 1990, even as the state's energy demand has increased and its gross domestic product grew 150 percent, a Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) analysis shows.

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