



CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL TO LA PORTE INDUSTRY

December 9th Chemical Release at Altivia that Resulted in a Shelter-in-Place

At approximately 10:25am on December 4, 2023, ALTIVIA experienced a process upset when a rupture disc burst in a process unit containing phosgene. Rupture discs are pressure relief devices used to protect equipment from overpressure. By design, the rupture disc allows the process to be relieved through a vent header to a scrubber to be neutralized. However, the vent header line contained a restriction, which caused pressure to accumulate in the line. The pressure buildup eventually caused the line to rupture. ALTIVIA's emergency response team (ERT) and emergency operations center (EOC) were immediately activated.

At approximately 10:35am, City of La Porte Emergency Operations Coordinator Johnny Morales was notified that ALTIVIA had a Level 2 phosgene gas release. Due to the unknown amount of product being released, Emergency Management and the Fire Department issued a cautionary shelter-in-place at 11:45am for the areas south of the facility between Bay Area and S.16th Street. Harris County HazMat and Harris County Pollution Control were requested to respond to the site and conduct additional air monitoring. Additionally, road closures were implemented in the surrounding areas to prevent any exposures. Upon verification from the La Porte Fire Department and Harris County Pollution Control, that there were no detectable amounts of immediately hazardous products near or downwind of the ALTIVIA facility, the shelter-in-place was lifted around 1:30pm.

The CAC is a forum for candid and constructive dialogue between those who live or work in La Porte, Morgan's Point, and Shoreacres and the managers of 44 chemical plants in La Porte. The CAC welcomes visitors. It meets again on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. to hear the Annual Report on Worker Safety in La Porte Plants. Contact info@laportecac.org if you wish to attend. The CAC shares information about its meetings and presentations at www.laportecac.org.