

April 4, 2019  
1:45 p.m.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Update: Harris County Public Health's Statement  
on ITC Chemical Plant Fire**

HOUSTON — Harris County Public Health (HCPH) continues to work with its response partners at the local, state, and federal levels to monitor events related to the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) plant fire incident on March 17, 2019. Our public health focus remains on the health and safety of the entire Harris County community.

We will continue to work with response partners until the health and safety of the entire community is no longer a concern. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) reports from its website that the Houston Ship Channel remains open for daylight vessel traffic only. Recovery efforts continue for the completion of all product removal at the ITC tank/farm incident site.

Based on current health-related data from multiple sources, there continues to be an overall **low health risk** for the general public. Monitoring for longer-term impact continues.

HCPH also continues to work with its healthcare partners and recommends that any individuals who have health concerns should contact their healthcare provider or if more serious, call 911. If you do not have a healthcare provider, you can find a local health center near you at <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>, or you can call the Harris Health System's 'Ask My Nurse' helpline – open from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily – to help answer basic health questions. The number is (713) 634-1110.

For complaints of odor resulting from the ITC incident (as well as the KMCO chemical plant fire in Crosby on April 1) or for general water or solid waste pollution complaints, please call the Harris County Pollution Control Services Department at (713) 920-2831.

HCPH reminds the public to continue to stay informed on the Deer Park incident. For updated guidance go to: [www.readyharris.org/deerparkfire](http://www.readyharris.org/deerparkfire) and [www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org). Residents can also stay up to date by following ReadyHarris on social media: Twitter [@ReadyHarris](https://twitter.com/ReadyHarris) and Facebook [ReadyHarris](https://www.facebook.com/ReadyHarris). To learn more, please visit: [www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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*HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.*

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