

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE BP CHEMICAL RELEASE



The April/May chemical release is only a fraction of what BP has released, and continues to release: BP released 500,000 lbs of chemicals, including 17,000 lbs of Benzene, over forty days from April to May, 2010—without telling the public!! This is the worst chemical release in recent memory in the State of Texas. But, this was just one of at least **24 separate** reported releases from BP that occurred from January to August 2010. There were **innumerable other releases** that were not reported by BP during the same time period. There have even been several other Benzene releases since April, several of which are unreported. Worse yet, according to government data, for the past 20 years, BP has released **half of a billion pounds of dangerous chemicals into the air in Galveston County.** This was not an isolated event!!

BP is a serial polluter: Setting aside BP's abysmal safety record and the record numbers of people killed and injured at the plant over the past five years, The Buzbee Law Firm has uncovered evidence demonstrating that BP averages more than **200 releases, emissions, and spills per year**, and in some years, has as many as 400 releases, spills, and emissions. BP at one point even averaged one fire per week at the plant. Many of these releases are **not reported to the authorities.** **BP is a serial polluter, and continues to be even today. When does it end?**

Fence Line Monitors do not tell the whole story: When questioned about the last release, BP management publicly stated that its fence line monitors (which are a few feet off the ground) did not detect any levels of chemicals that were of concern to the public. BP knows that this statement is extremely misleading. The truth is that BP's fence line monitors **would likely not** detect these chemicals released into atmosphere, as they were released more than 200 feet into the air and would be carried away with the prevailing winds. Even if BP's monitors worked properly, this **DOES NOT** mean that no dangerous chemicals were released. Indeed, The Buzbee Law Firm has already learned that monitors at adjacent plants detected elevated levels of chemicals that came from BP. Many workers from adjacent plants are pursuing their own claims for exposure against BP.

There is evidence of BP's monitors being disabled: The Buzbee Law Firm has uncovered evidence that some air monitors within BP have been disabled by using a simple paper clip. If BP's monitors can be disabled using a simple paperclip, this speaks volumes about BP's "efforts" to protect the public from its emissions. One must take with a grain of salt when BP says that its monitors did not detect dangerous chemicals, especially while BP at the same time admits that more than 500,000 lbs of dangerous chemicals were released.

Flaring cannot, and does not, burn off all of the toxic chemicals: When BP claims that a certain amount of chemicals were released to flare, what this means is that this is the amount that **WAS NOT** burned and was released into the community. The point is: Many more pounds were sent to the flare, but BP is only reporting the amount that it has calculated did not actually burn. BP uses an algorithm to calculate the amount of chemicals not actually burned when they are sent to flare. The Buzbee Law Firm has established that BP's algorithm exponentially underestimates the amount of chemicals that are actually released and not burned by the flare. This means that BP is underreporting the amount of chemicals released into our air.

BP releases many times more chemicals into the air than does its competitors: BP, by far, is the worst polluter in this area, and possibly in the United States. Other chemical plants have proven that a reasonable profit can be made in the refining industry without releasing dangerous chemicals into the air on a daily basis. All of the regulatory authorities have made efforts to force BP to conform to U.S. and Texas laws, without success. What can we citizens do about it?

BP's employees are, for the most part, hard workers with no ill intent: No one is suggesting that BP's employees have the intention to hurt others, or pollute our air and water. BP employees are no doubt doing the best they can, but are doing so with management (specifically in the U.K.) that has demonstrated a complete and utter disregard to the safety of our community. An attack on BP is not an attack on its employees.

BP is not going anywhere, and if it did, it would be replaced by a much better and safer company: BP has proven that it cannot operate as a responsible corporate citizen. If it were to leave, it wouldn't and couldn't take the plant with it! Instead, it would sell the plant, hopefully to a responsible corporate citizen who would make the improvements necessary to avoid the 200 releases a year that continuously pollute the air in our community. No other chemical plant owner has BP's dismal record, and certainly there are responsible buyers who would be willing to purchase a plant that makes as much as \$1 billion in profit yearly.

Benzene and the other chemicals released have both short-term and long-term effects: Exposure to Benzene, or any of the other toxic chemicals released by BP, will rarely show up in the blood or system unless testing is done immediately after the exposure. Most individuals who complain of the classic symptoms of chemical exposure are unaware that an exposure is occurring at the time of exposure, and most doctors do not perform the proper tests in sufficient time to document the chemicals in the system. Such was the case with BP's latest large chemical release—**BECAUSE BP DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE RELEASE UNTIL IT WAS OVER.** Even so, multiple people were in fact tested and were found to have Benzene and other dangerous chemicals in their systems. This was a significant release, and is a significant public health hazard to this area. Many of the chemicals released in April and May, and the chemicals that have been continuously released over the years, cause various types of cancers that may not show up for years.

People bringing suit: More than 14,000 people have now retained The Buzbee Law Firm to seek remedy against BP for the latest chemical exposure. Because The Buzbee Law Firm is a leader in this area of the law, many law firms have sought our assistance on this landmark case. This is the largest case in the history of Galveston County. The overwhelming majority of the individuals bringing suit against BP are employed in this county and work hard; indeed, many work as contractors at the BP plant and adjacent plants. All worry about their children. All care about their families, our community, and pay taxes. **They are fed up.** They do not seek a handout. What they seek is to force BP to comply with the laws. That is the purpose of joining this lawsuit.

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