



TEXAS CHEMICAL COUNCIL

TCC Statement to *Texas Tribune*

11/19/14

The following statement may be attributed to TCC President & CEO Hector L. Rivero:

We offer our deepest sympathies to the families and colleagues of the employees affected by the recent tragedy at the DuPont LaPorte manufacturing plant.

The safe operations and the safety of member company employees and their communities are of critical importance to all our member companies. Our industry works closely with Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) to develop emergency response plans in the event of an unforeseen accident. The LEPC reviews the plan at least annually, and provide information about any hazards in the community to citizens. LEPCs stakeholder participation includes: elected state and local officials; police, fire, civil defense, and public health professionals; environment, transportation, and hospital officials; facility representatives; and representatives from community groups and the media. After any event, an LEPC will examine and assess emergency communication response protocols and technologies do determine if any changes or improvements are warranted.

Our industry takes every process safety incident very seriously. Our member companies work closely with state and federal agencies involved in an investigation of an incident to obtain insights about the factors that led to the incident and identifying best practices to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. Best practices are shared across the industry and also disseminated by regulatory agencies to regulated facilities.

We believe that the best approach for safeguarding our employees and the communities where they live and work continues to be through a combination of strong industry programs and effective, workable regulations.

Background on chemical safety improvements and strides the industry has made to ensure facility safety:

- Our member companies voluntarily track all process safety incidents and have reduced their occurrence by 55% since 1995.
- Our member companies have reduced the recordable injury and illness rates by 80% since 1990.
- There has been a 77% reduction in hazardous releases to air, land, or water since 1988.
- Industry has invested over \$14 Billion to enhance site security over the last decade.

About TCC:

Texas Chemical Council (TCC) is a statewide trade association of chemical manufacturing facilities in Texas. Our 70 member companies produce vital products for our way of life, provide employment and career opportunities for more than 74,000 Texans at over 200 separate facilities across the state. Their combined economic activity sustains nearly a half-million jobs for Texans. The chemical products manufactured in Texas account for over \$35 Billion in state exports each year.

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