Climate Change and Toxic Hazards: Before, During, and After the Storm

Part II: During the Storm

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Independent Monitors Found Benzene Levels After Harvey Six Times Higher Than Guidelines

After an oil tank in Houston’s Manchester neighborhood caved in, private monitors found levels that far exceeded California’s health guidelines

By Lisa Song and Al Shaw, ProPublica, and Kiah Collier, The Texas Tribune, September 14, 2017

High Levels of Carcinogen Found in Houston Area After Harvey

High levels of chemicals found in air around Houston refinery after EPA told residents not to worry

The revelations came after an environmental group conducted its own testing.
Hurricane Florence Risk Sites

Superfund data courtesy Environmental Protection Agency, swine farm data courtesy North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, coal ash site data courtesy Frontier group. Map by SkyTruth.

https://skytruth-org.carto.com/viz/ddfae580-b63a-4ade-9315-5bd1dfc24c00/public_map
Researchers respond quickly after Hurricane Florence

After Hurricane Florence devastated southeastern North Carolina, NIEHS grantees hit the ground running to test for contaminants.

BY SARA AMOLOGBE
Benzene ug/m³

0.00 - 0.33
0.34 - 0.63
0.64 - 1.27
1.28 - 2.36
2.37 - 10.99

Water samples
Limited Access
Highway
Major Road
Local Road
Minor Road
Other Road
Ramp
Ferry
Pedestrian Way

Benzene in water μg/L

0.00
0.01 - 0.02
0.03
0.06 - 0.39
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Photo: Jay Janner