

We're Online!

Grand
Prairie

TEXAS
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

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H₂O LINE NEWSLETTER

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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Grand Prairie industries for achieving 100% compliance during the 2019-2020 pretreatment year. These companies are recognized for compliance with their wastewater discharge permit effluent limits and reporting requirements, as well as, storm water and cross connection device requirements. Your commitment is appreciated!



**FALL IS IN
THE AIR. CHOOSE
LOCALLY GROWN
PRODUCTS
WHEN ON THE GO
OR AT HOME.**



A. Zahner Company

ABC Compunding

Airbus Helicopters

Breg, Inc.

DeLaval Manufacturing

Gemini Coatings

International Paper - Bag Plant

**Lockheed Martin Missiles &
Fire Control - SW 14th Street
Facility**

Metal Improvement

Neos Therapeutics

**PepsiCo Global Concentrate
Solutions**

Poly-America

**Pratt & Whitney Services,
Inc - 1174**

**Pratt & Whitney Services,
Inc - 1177**

Safran Helicopter Engines

Sun Chemical

TPW Metal Finishing

**Triumph Accessory Services
- Grand Prairie**

Win - Holt Equipment

CHEMICAL FIRE CAUSED BY HURRICANE LAURA

Hurricane Laura passed through Lake Charles, Louisiana on Thursday, August 27, with wind speeds measured at 98 mph gusting to 133 mph. A chemical fire ensued at a plant operated by Biolab about seven hours after Hurricane Laura pushed through the Lake Charles area. The plant manufactures pool chlorine and had been shut down and evacuated before the hurricane reached the area. The owner of the Biolab plant, KIK Custom



Products, said the fire was a result of damage sustained during the hurricane. Officials believe that during the storm, some of the plant's products began to react and decompose. Chlorine gas was released into the air by the fire, triggering emergency shelter-in-place orders to be issued by the cities of Westlake, Moss Bluff, and Sulphur. Chlorine gas is harmful when inhaled and can damage the lung tissue permanently. It can also cause blisters, a burning sensation in the eyes, nose, and throat. The high winds quickly spread the gas. The plume of smoke, which could be seen moving across Interstate 10, carried chlorine toward Lake Charles. Chlorine falling into the lake will be diluted by the water. Downed powerlines, trees, and other debris made it difficult for crews to reach the site. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality monitored the air quality and the EPA assisted with fly over monitoring.

MAURITIUS OIL SPILL

The Japanese-owned bulk carrier, MV Wakashio, ran aground on a coral reef off the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius on July 25, 2020, and on August 6, 2020, a tank breach on the stranded vessel released an estimated 1,000 metric tons (28,000 gallons) of bunker fuel into the sea and onto approximately 20 miles of shoreline. The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for this material indicates it is a heavy fuel oil that is extremely toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects. Reports of dead and dying eels, starfish, crabs, and seabirds have been received from Mauritian volunteers and activists. International efforts led by two oil spill response companies and local residents were reportedly successful in cleaning up most of the spill from the seawater, with efforts now shifting to the impacted shoreline. The Captain and First Officer of the Wakashio were arrested by the Mauritius Police Force on August 18, 2020 and remain in custody for negligence on charges of endangering safe navigation under the country's Piracy and Maritime Violence Act, which carries a prison term of up to 60 years, allegedly by allowing the vessel to deviate from the normal shipping lane while attempting to draw closer to the Mauritius coastline in order to receive a Wi-Fi signal for internet access and while participating in an onboard birthday celebration for one of the crewmembers. Further information is at: [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/mauitius oil spill](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/mauitius%20oil%20spill).



JOIN THE TEXAS STREAM TEAM

Join the City of Grand Prairie to preserve water quality. Discover how you or your organization can become a Texas Stream Team volunteer monitor today! Partners collect critical information about water quality that supports local and state resource managers in scientifically sound decision making. Once trained, volunteers need to dedicate only one hour a month to monitor a stream of their choice.

Texas Stream Team is a statewide network of citizen scientists and supportive partners working together to gather information about water quality in our streams. Texas Stream Team is administered through a cooperative partnership between The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, please contact Chandani Rana at crana@gptx.org or call (972) 237-8082.



TIER II CHEMICAL REPORTING TRAINING CLASSES

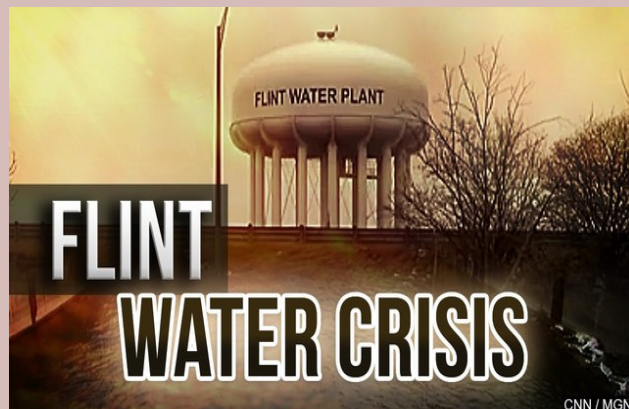
The Tier II Chemical Reporting Program is hosting free online training classes as part of the TCEQ's steps to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on both our staff and our customers. Tier II requirements and reporting procedures will be the focus.

The classes will be conducted using Microsoft Teams, and will cover TCEQ's online reporting system. Additional information on class participation and a schedule of available dates and times will be posted when available. Class sizes will be limited to allow participants to be able to interact with the presenters and ask questions. Registration for a class will be on a first-come first-serve basis. Should you have to cancel your registration, please send an email to tier2help@tceq.texas.gov.

For more information go to TexasTier2.org

\$600 MILLION SETTLEMENT TO VICTIMS OF FLINT WATER CRISIS

On August 20, 2020, a preliminary agreement was reached for the State of Michigan to pay \$600 million to parties affected during the City of Flint's 2014 transition of its public water supply to the Flint River. In 2014, the city switched its water supply from Lake Huron to Flint River without adjusting corrosion controls to the new source water. This led to lead and other chemicals leaching from the older pipes into the drinking water supply. Flint residents were able to immediately



see the difference in the water by taste and appearance, and some Flint children were later tested to have elevated levels of lead in their blood. The maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) is zero for lead in drinking water. The individual amounts that can be received from this settlement will depend on the severity of the claims made by those that were affected by the water from 2014 to 2016. Majority of this money will go towards the children or people that were minors during that time period. They are expecting payments to be dispersed beginning in Spring 2021. This settlement is separate from the other steps that have been taken by the city and the state to help residents. The water supply has already been switched back to Lake Huron, and a project to replace all lead service lines is already in its final phase.

Celebrate

Mayor Ron Jensen turns 70 this year and he wants to celebrate with all of Grand Prairie. Starting Thursday, Oct. 19 through Monday, Dec. 28 we will #Celebrate70 with Mayor Jensen through a variety of community engagement efforts that are near to his heart.

With
Mayor
Ron Jensen



WWW.GPTX.ORG/MAYORJENSENS70

PLAY
SERVE
ENGAGE
EXPLORE
SUPPORT
CONNECT
CELEBRATE

BENEFITS OF GETTING A FLU VACCINE EVERY YEAR

Flu viruses evolve rapidly and change year to year. Last year's vaccine may not protect you from this year's viruses.

Even when the vaccine doesn't completely prevent the flu, it may lessen the severity of your illness.

Vaccinating while pregnant protects the baby from flu infection for several months after birth, before the baby can be vaccinated.

By vaccinating yourself, you are less likely to transmit influenza to others, especially vulnerable populations like pregnant women, young children and those with chronic health conditions.

The flu vaccine is one of the safest vaccines available.

People who get a flu vaccine are less likely to get sick with flu than someone who does not get vaccinated.



Grand Prairie
TEXAS

A metal electro-plating facility in Harris County was assessed \$3,733 for failing to comply with the maximum allowable emissions rates under their New Source Review Permit.

A cement plant in Ellis County was assessed \$9,393 for failing to submit a final record for a reportable emissions event no later than two weeks after the end of the emissions event and failing to prevent unauthorized emissions.

An industrial and hazardous waste facility in Jasper County was assessed \$9,850 for failing to prevent the unauthorized discharge of industrial waste into water in the state and failing to notify the TCEQ within 24 hours of becoming aware of a reportable discharge greater than the reportable quantity in any 24-hour period.

A used oil and used oil filter handling and processing facility in Harris County was assessed \$50,875 for failing to provide evidence of financial responsibility with registration to assure the facility has sufficient assets to provide for proper closure, failing to provide secondary containment to all areas where used oil is stored or handled, failing to submit a report of used oil operations on a biennial basis, failing to develop a SPCC plan, failing to develop and maintain a written analysis plan for sampling and analyzing, keeping records, and complying with analytical requirements, failing to submit a Notice of Registration regarding waste processing activities, and failing to complete an Annual Waste Summary and failing to conduct hazardous waste determinations and waste classifications.

TEXAS TROUBLE

This newsletter is a publication of:
Environmental Services Department
Environmental Quality Division
Submit your comments and suggestions to:

Editor: Cindy Mendez
Phone: 972-237-8225
Fax: 972-237-8228
Email: Cmendez@gptx.org

Environmental Service Department
Environmental Quality Division
300 West Church St., 2nd Floor
Grand Prairie, TX 75050