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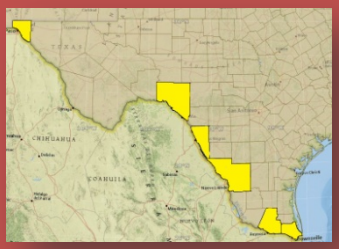
Toxics Release Inventory Update
Texas Border Counties*
Reporting Years 2009-2011



U.S. EPA Region 6: *US-Mexico Border 2020 Program*

-- January 2013

This report provides data from the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) for the facilities[1] in Texas that are located within 100 kilometers of the U.S.-Mexico Border. Total Releases for border counties (*El Paso, Val Verde, Webb, Hidalgo, Maverick and Cameron) accounted for 0.6% of Total Releases for the state of Texas for 2009, 0.5% for 2010, and approximately 1.1 % for 2011. The majority of the remaining Texas border counties did not report any releases or otherwise had facilities that were beyond the 100 km border region and have been excluding from this report.

What is TRI?

TRI is a database containing data on disposal or other releases of over 650 toxic chemicals from thousands of U.S. facilities and information about how facilities manage those chemicals through recycling, energy recovery, and treatment. One of TRI's primary purposes is to inform communities about toxic chemical releases to the environment.

What is a release?

A TRI "release" is defined as the amount of a toxic chemical released on-site (to air, water, underground injection, landfills, and other land disposal), and the amount transferred off-site for disposal.

Releases and health effects

It is important to note that releases should not be directly equated with risk. The determination of potential risk to human health and/or the environment depends upon many factors, including the toxicity of the chemical, the fate of the chemical in the environment, and the amount and duration of human or other exposure to the chemical. In addition, this data does not indicate whether or not a facility is violating environmental laws. Many of the substances reported through this program are subject to state and federal regulations designed to protect human health and the environment.

Who is reporting?

A facility is subject to TRI reporting requirements if it has 10 or more full-time employee equivalents (20,000 work hours per year); is classified under a reportable North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) Code; and manufactures, processes, or otherwise uses any of the TRI chemicals in amounts above established threshold amounts. For most chemicals, the thresholds are 25,000 pounds for "manufactured" or "processed," and 10,000 pounds for "otherwise used." However, depending on the chemical, EPA may have set a lower reporting threshold, such as certain chemicals categorized as persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals.

TRI Chemical Releases to the Environment: 2009-2011

Total (on-site, off-site disposal and other releases) TRI chemical releases reported in the Texas - Mexico Border Region from Border Counties during the past three years are displayed in the Table:[2]

	2009	2010	2011
Total Air (lbs)	335,591	397,843	429,103
Total Water (lbs)	11	3	7
Total Land	216,463	201,583	238,963
Total Off-Site	579,321	470,632	1,795,114
Total	1,131,386	1,070,061	2,463,187

Table 1. Total On-site & Offsite Disposal or Other Releases (2009-2011) from Texas Border Counties.

TRI Chemical Releases by Counties

The most significant change observed was a three-fold increase in Off-site Disposal or Other Releases from 2010-2011 Reporting Year. The majority of the increase in Off-Disposal and Other Releases was due to a facility (primary metals industry) located in El Paso County (Table 2b & Table 2c). The facility significantly increased its off-site transfer to disposal-Other Landfills of the TRI reported chemical: copper.

[1] No adjustments were made to account for double counting that could occur as a result of off-site transfers of some TRI facilities also being reported as on-site releases at permitted hazardous waste landfills and other TRI facilities that receive the on-site transfers.

[2] Year to year data comparisons do not reflect changes in reporting requirements.

TRI Chemical Releases by Counties

2009	On-site or Other Releases (lbs)	Off-Site Disposal & Other Releases (lbs)	# of Facilities Reporting
Cameron	54,539	119,897	9
Webb	11,598	0	1
Hidalgo	10,946	2,665	4
Maverick	23	4	1
El Paso	474,959	456,754	20
Total	**552,066**	**579,321**	**35**

Table 2a. On-site and Other Releases or Off-site Disposal from Border Counties for 2009.

	On-site or Other Releases (lbs)	Off-Site Disposal & Other Releases (lbs)	# of Facilities Reporting
Cameron	55,116	89,052	10
Webb	12,967	0	2
Hidalgo	6,523	3,269	4
Val Verde	< 1	0	1
Maverick	24	3	1
El Paso	524,799	378,308	21
Total	**599,430**	**470,632**	**39**

Table 2b. On-site and Other Releases or Off-site Disposal from Border Counties for 2010.

	On-site or Other Releases (lbs)	Off-Site Disposal & Other Releases (lbs)	# of Facilities Reporting
Cameron	72,111	62,260	10
Webb	13,179	0	2
Hidalgo	9,259	1,103	3
El Paso	573,524	1,731,751	19
Total	**668,073**	**1,795,114**	**34**

Table 2c. On-site and Other Releases or Off-site Disposal from Border Counties for 2011.

Facilities with the Top Chemical Releases

In 2009, reported releases in the Border area of Texas (approximately 1.13 million pounds) accounted for about 0.6% of the State's approximately 196.3 million pounds of reported releases. The highest releases coming from off-site disposal and other releases.[3] Thirty-Five (35) facilities within five Texas counties reported releases (see Table 2a). The top five facilities with the largest chemical releases for 2009 are reported on Table 3a.

Facility	Total Releases (lbs) – All chemicals reported
Phelps Dodge Copper Product Co. (El Paso County)	409,371
US Army Air Defense Artillery Center & Ft. Bliss Ranges (El Paso County)	214,426
Dal-Tile El Paso Manufacturing (El Paso County)	182,286
Keppel Amfsels LLC (Cameron County)	151,962
Western Refinery (El Paso County)	92,564

Table 3a. Facilities with Largest Chemical Releases Reported in Texas border counties for 2009.

In 2010, reported releases in the Border area of Texas (approximately 1.07 million pounds) accounted for about 0.5% of the State's approximately 207.32 million pounds of reported releases. The highest releases coming from on-site and other releases [4]. Thirty-Nine (39) facilities within six Texas counties reported releases (see Table 2b). The top five facilities with the largest chemical releases for 2010 are reported on Table 3b.

Facility	Total Releases (lbs) – All chemicals reported
Phelps Dodge Copper Product Co. (El Paso County)	327,315
US Army Air Defense Artillery Center & Ft. Bliss Ranges (El Paso County)	201,898
Dal-Tile El Paso Manufacturing (El Paso County)	183,250
Western Refinery (El Paso County)	135,254
Keppel Amfsels LLC (Cameron County)	118,218

Table 3b. Facilities with Largest Chemical Releases Reported in Texas border counties for 2010.

In 2011, reported releases in the Border area of Texas (approximately 2.46 million pounds) accounted for about 1.1 % of the State's approximately 209.02 million pounds of reported releases. The highest releases coming from off-site disposal and other releases. Thirty-Nine (34) facilities within six Texas counties reported releases (see Table 2c). The top five facilities with the largest chemical releases for 2011 are reported on Table 3c.

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Facility	Total Releases (lbs) All chemicals reported
Coleman Cable, Inc. (El Paso County)	1,585,986
US Army Air Defense Artillery Center & Ft. Bliss Ranges (El Paso County)	238,977
Dal-Tile El Paso Manufacturing (El Paso County)	213,079
Phelps Dodge Copper Product Co. (El Paso County)	145,776
Western Refinery (El Paso County)	114,204

Table 3c. Facilities with Largest Chemical Releases Reported in Texas border counties for 2011.

[3] An off-site disposal or other release is a discharge of a toxic chemical to the environment that occurs as a result of a facility's transferring a waste containing a TRI chemical off-site for disposal or other release, as reported in Section 6 of the TRI Form R. Certain other types of transfers are also categorized as off-site disposal or other release because, except for location, the outcome of transferring the chemical off-site is the same as disposing of it or releasing it on-site. For each transfer, the amount of the chemical in the waste, type of management activity (chosen from a list of codes referred to as "M" codes) undertaken by the receiving facility, and the address of the receiving site is reported.

[4] On-site disposal or other releases include emissions to the air, discharges to bodies of water, disposal at the facility to land, and disposal in underground injection wells. Disposal or other releases are reported to TRI by media type. On-site disposal or other releases are reported in Section 5 of the TRI Form R.

Persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals: 2009-2011

Some of the chemicals on the TRI chemical list have been designated as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals. PBT chemicals are of particular concern not only because they are toxic, but also because they remain in the environment for long periods of time, and they tend to build up, or bioaccumulate, in the tissue of organisms. Table 4 the PBTs reported in Texas for 2009-2011 years. There were six PBT chemicals reported throughout these years: lead, lead compounds, Benzo(G,H,I)Perylene, mercury, mercury compounds, and Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds. The PBTs reported with the largest quantities were those of lead and lead compounds. For both of these chemicals, the quantities disposed of or otherwise released fell and rose between 2009 and 2011; trends were primarily driven by industries in El Paso County: Phelps Dodge Copper Products Co. and US Army – Ft. Bliss.

	2009	2010	2011
Lead	1,325	252	605
Lead Compounds	121,630	102,068	158,807
Benzo(G,H,I) Perylene	93	17	45
Mercury	5	4	0
Mercury Compounds	13	No Industry Reported	10
Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds	31	31	23
Total	123,097	102,372	159,490

Table 4. Total On-site & Offsite Disposal or Other Releases (in pounds) of reported PBT Chemicals from Texas Border Counties.

Reported Total On-site, Off-Site Disposal or Other Releases of Border counties represented approximately 5% (Yr 2009), 4% (Yr 2010) and 6% (Yr 2011) of the total PBT's releases reported for the state of Texas.

For national information on data releases, see:
http://www.epa.gov/tri

The TRI data is available through Envirofacts Warehouse, EPA's internet site for distributing environmental information at:
http://www.epa.gov/enviro

or the TRI Explorer tool:
http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer

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