

Daily Air Quality Report September 2, 2020

Beaumont

Total Operational Near Real-Time Monitors: 2 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 2 for sulfur dioxide (SO₂); 2 for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

Air Quality Summary: Measured hourly VOC concentrations, including benzene and 1,3-butadiene, were generally low and in the typical range for the Beaumont area on September 2, 2020. All measured VOC concentrations remained far below levels of short-term health concern.

Hourly SO₂ concentrations measured in the Beaumont area remained low on September 2, 2020. All hourly SO₂ concentrations were below a level of health concern.

Hourly PM_{2.5} concentrations measured in the Beaumont area on September 2, 2020 were generally higher than is typically observed for this area but were below concentrations of health concern. These concentrations decreased to more typical levels later in the day. Because this trend of higher PM_{2.5} levels early in the day on September 2 was observed across the Houston and Beaumont areas, it suggests that the cause is not a single PM_{2.5} emission source, but rather that this is an area-wide phenomenon.

Houston

Total Operational Near Real-Time Monitors: 8 for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 7 for sulfur dioxide (SO₂); 7 for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

Air Quality Summary: Measured hourly VOC concentrations, including benzene and 1,3-butadiene, were generally low and in the typical range for the Houston Ship Channel area on September 2, 2020. Concentrations of 1,3-butadiene at the Clinton and Milby Park monitors were slightly higher than average for one hour but were still more than 1,000-times lower than the health-based comparison level. All measured VOC concentrations remained far below levels of short-term health concern.

Hourly SO₂ concentrations measured in the Houston Ship Channel area remained low on September 2, 2020. All hourly SO₂ concentrations were well below a level of health concern.

Hourly PM_{2.5} concentrations measured in the Houston Ship Channel area on September 2, 2020 were generally higher than is typically observed for this area but were below concentrations of health concern. These concentrations decreased to more typical levels later in the day. Because this trend of higher PM_{2.5} levels early in the day on September 2 was observed across the Houston and Beaumont areas, it suggests that the cause is not a single PM_{2.5} emission source, but rather that this is an area-wide phenomenon.