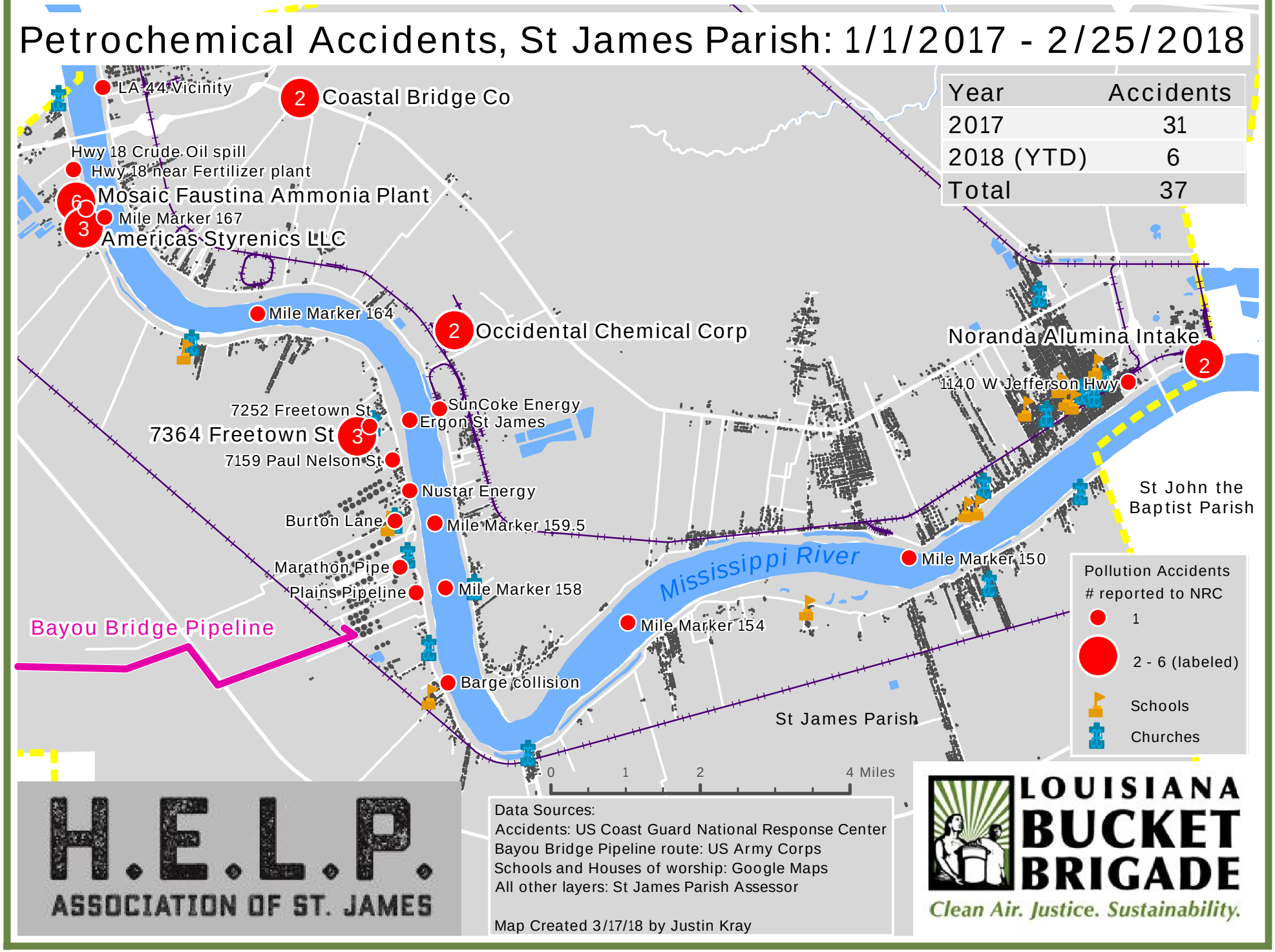
Petrochemical Accidents, St James Parish: 1/1/2017 - 2/25/2018



Year	Accidents
2017	31
2018 (YTD)	6
Total	37

Pollution Accidents
reported to NRC
1
2 - 6 (labeled)
Schools
Churches

H.E.L.P.
ASSOCIATION OF ST. JAMES

Data Sources:
Accidents: US Coast Guard National Response Center
Bayou Bridge Pipeline route: US Army Corps
Schools and Houses of worship: Google Maps
All other layers: St James Parish Assessor

Map Created 3/17/18 by Justin Kray

LOUISIANA BUCKET BRIGADE
Clean Air. Justice. Sustainability.

H.E.L.P. ASSOCIATION OF ST. JAMES | LOUISIANA BUCKET BRIGADE | L'EAU EST LA VIE CAMP | 350 NEW ORLEANS

SPOTLIGHT ON SPILLS: ST. JAMES PARISH

FINDINGS

January 1, 2017 to February 25, 2018

The National Response Center is the federal point of contact for oil spills and chemical accidents. During the period under review, **thirty-seven accidents** were reported from facilities or individuals in St. James Parish to the National Response Center (NRC). Reports are filed by a company employee, contractor or third party. In the case of these reports in St. James, neighbors filed eight of the 37 reports.

2017 total: 31 **2018 total year through Feb 25:** 6

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

Sixteen of the reports filed by industry (55%) cite "unknown" as the cause.

Seven of the reports filed by industry (24%) cite equipment failure as the cause.

AmSty attributed one accident (#1202281) to natural phenomenon because of a freeze. The freeze was predicted. The real cause of the accident, therefore, was a failure to prepare. This is the usual approach taken by industry: to portray a failure to prepare as something unavoidable.

FINDING #1: ST. JAMES RESIDENTS ARE SICK FROM INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

The industry reports detail frequent releases of hazardous chemicals to the air, water and soil. The reports filed by community members note that chemical odors in the neighborhood cause headaches, "nausea and sickness." Sometimes the odors last for days at a time.

Facility	Date(s) of accidents	Chemicals Released to the Air
Occidental	1.7.17 7.17.17	Chlorine Sodium hydroxide
AmSty	2.14.17 7.28.17	Methane, pentane, nitrogen and over 500 pounds of benzene (a known carcinogen) Benzene
Mosaic	3.28.17 4.14.17 7.5.17 7.18.07	Ammonia

FINDING #2: THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS WITH PIPELINE COMPANIES AND STORAGE TANKS ALREADY IN THE PARISH, INCLUDING ONE ACCIDENT THAT RELEASED 12,558 GALLONS

Plains All American Pipeline spilled 12,558 gallons of crude oil from a storage tank on March 4th.* Residents were not notified of this leak and only found out after noticing oil in neighborhood ditches.

Incident Type: STORAGE TANK Material: CRUDE OIL
Medium Affected: LAND Suspected Responsible Party: PLAINES ALL AMERICAN PIPELINE

Report Description (NRC # 1173918)
CALLER IS REPORTING A DISCHARGE OF CRUDE FROM A STORAGE TANK. THE OIL FLOWED OUT OF THE CONTAINMENT INTO A DITCH.

A report on March 10th detailed the possibility of an underground leak.

Incident Type: PIPELINE Material: CRUDE OIL
Medium Affected: LAND Suspected Responsible Party: MARATHON PETROLEUM

Report Description (NRC # 1172904)
AN ESTIMATED FOUR (4) BARRELS OF OCRUDE OILWAS DISCOVERED ON THE GRAVEL WITHIN THE PUMP-STATION; CAUSE UNKNOWN. PROUDCT IS SUPSECTED TO BE SEEPING FROM UNDERGROUND.

There was no follow up report filed about the suspected underground leak.

*Detail on these reports provided by SkyTruth analysis.

FINDING #3: ACCIDENTS ARE UNDERREPORTED

Accident reports filed by industry	Accident reports filed by neighbors
29	8

The NRC system relies on industry to self-report, which is problematic in any case, but especially in Louisiana where the regulatory is so weak and compromised. The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is a former 20 year Exxon employee.

There is not a single instance of an industry report corresponding to a neighbor's complaint, meaning that there are at least eight occasions - and likely far more - in which industry failed to report an accident.

St. James Parish: 37 Petrochemical Accidents
January 1, 2017 - February 25, 2018

DATE & TIME	FACILITY	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CAUSE	SEQNOS
1/5/2017 11:51	Stone Fuel	VESSEL	CALLER IS REPORTING A SPILL OF FUEL TO A BURP FROM A SOUNDING TANK.	OTHER	1167862
1/7/2017 0:25	Occidental Chemical Corporation	FIXED	CALLER STATED THE MAIN CHLORINE COMPRESSOR AT THE FACILITY TRIPPED. THIS RESULTED IN A RELEASE OF CHLORINE TO THE AIR.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1167978
2/13/2017 18:00	Lutcher Water Works	VESSEL	CALLER REPORTED THAT WHEN THEY CRANKED THE MAIN ENGINE OF A TUG BOAT, THEY NOTICED OIL DROPS FROM THE OVERBOARD COOLING WATER INTO THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1171002
2/14/2017 18:50	AmSty	FIXED	THE RP IS REPORTING A RELEASE OF VENT GAS (METHANE, PENTANE, BENZENE & NITROGEN) DUE TO A BLEED VENT BEING LEFT OPEN. RP STATED THAT WHILE IN THE PROCESS OF ROUTING THE VENT GAS TO A FUEL GAS MIX DRUM THE BLEED VENT WAS DISCOVERED OPEN WHICH ALLOWED THE MATERIAL INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. NO REPORTED INJURIES OR EVACUATIONS AT THIS TIME. **RP STATED THAT BENZENE IS THE ONLY COMPONENT OF THE VENT GAS THAT THE RQ WAS EXCEEDED. **RP STATED THE CAUSE OF THE BLEED VENT BEING LEFT OPEN IS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION.	UNKNOWN	1171141
2/17/2017 4:30	Mosaic Faustina Ammonia Plant	FIXED	CALLER IS REPORTING A RELEASE OF WATER WITH POSSIBLE WASTE CODES D002, D006, D007 FROM THE LINE ON A STORAGE TANK PUMP ONTO THE GROUND INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF SECONDARY CONTAINMENT DUE TO MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES.	OTHER	1171277
3/4/2017 21:00	Plains All American Pipeline	STORAGE TANK	CALLER IS REPORTING A DISCHARGE OF CRUDE FROM A STORAGE TANK. THE OIL FLOWED OUT OF THE CONTAINMENT INTO A DITCH.	UNKNOWN	1172482

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3/4/2017 21:00	Plains All American Pipeline	STORAGE TANK	/// UPDATE TO NRC REPORT # 1172482 /// THE CALLER UPDATED THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MATERIAL RELEASED. THE AMOUNT RELEASED INTO THE DITCH IS UNKNOWN. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT (NRC # 1172482) CALLER IS REPORTING A DISCHARGE OF CRUDE FROM A STORAGE TANK. THE OIL FLOWED OUT OF THE CONTAINMENT INTO A DITCH.	UNKNOWN	1172504
3/10/2017 8:15	Marathon Pipe Line	PIPELINE	AN ESTIMATED FOUR (4) BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL WAS DISCOVERED ON THE GRAVEL WITHIN THE PUMP-STATION; CAUSE UNKNOWN. PRODUCT IS SUSPECTED TO BE SEEPING FROM UNDERGROUND.	UNKNOWN	1172904
3/27/2017 18:45	SunCoke Energy	FIXED	CALLER RECEIVED REPORT THAT THE UPPER DOCK CONVEYER BELT CAUGHT ON FIRE DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSE. THE FIRE WAS EXTINGUISHED BY FACILITY EMPLOYEES. INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY.	UNKNOWN	1174210
3/28/2017 4:00	Mosaic Faustina Ammonia Plant	FIXED	CALLER STATED DUE TO AN OPERATIONAL PROBLEM AT THE PLANT, AMMONIA RELEASED TO THE AIR FROM A RELIEF VAVLE.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1174218
4/14/2017 7:20	Mosaic Faustina Ammonia Plant	FIXED	CALLER IS REPORTING A RELEASE OF AMMONIA FROM A LINE TO THE FLARE. CALLER STATES THIS OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF ADJUSTMENTS MADE AT THE FACILITY, WHICH CAUSED AN ABUNDANCE OF AMMONIA TO FLOW THROUGH THE LINE.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1175677

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4/15/2017 11:50	Coastal Bridge	FIXED	THE RP IS REPORTING A RELEASE OF CHEMICAL TREATMENT (CHEMTREAT CL4079) DUE TO OPERATOR ERROR. RP STATED THAT WHILE CONDUCTING CLEANING OPERATIONS AT THE FACILITY THE MATERIAL WAS INADVERTENTLY PRESSURE WASHED FROM A CONCRETE PAD TO AN ONSITE DITCH. ***CHEMICAL CAS: 2801-21-4. ***AMOUNT SPILLED IS ESTIMATED AS LESS THAN 50 GALLONS. ***RP STATED THE MATERIAL IS CONTAINED TO THE ONSITE DITCH.	OPERATOR ERROR	1175762
5/1/2017 12:00		FIXED	CALLER IS MAKING A REPORT INVOLVING A STRONG HAZARDOUS ODOR COMING FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE IN THE VICINITY OF HWY 44. CALLER DESCRIBED THE ODOR AS A VERY STRONG NATURAL GAS SMELL AND THERE ARE SEVERAL CHEMICAL PLANTS IN THE AREA THAT IT COULD BE COMING FROM. THIS INCIDENT HAS BEEN ONGOING FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS AND TODAY IT IS VERY STRONG.	UNKNOWN	1177187
5/19/2017 6:00	Coastal Bridge	STORAGE TANK	CALLER IS REPORTING THAT FITTINGS ON A STORAGE TANK FAILED RESULTING IN THE RELEASE OF SODIUM HYDROXIDE INTO CONTAINMENT AND ONTO THE GROUND.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1178737
5/31/2017 0:01	Noranda Alumina Intake	PIPELINE	CALLER IS REPORTING A BARGE BROKE FREE OF ITS MOORINGS AND COLLIDED WITH AN UNDERWATER PIPELINE, RESULTING IN A RELEASE OF NATURAL GAS. PERSONS ON SCENE REPORT BUBBLING FROM UNDER WATER, AND A SMELL OF NATURAL GAS.	OTHER	1179785

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DATE & TIME	FACILITY	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CAUSE	SEQNOS
6/8/2017 21:00		FIXED	///CORRECTION TO NRC REPORT # 1180698/// THE INCIDENT LOCATION IS IN THE ST. JAMES PARISH. DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT CALLER IS REPORTING THAT A TRANSFORMER FELL DOWN FROM A CORRODED POLE AND SPILLED NON-PCB OIL ON THE ROAD AND A STORM DRAIN.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1180700
6/20/2017 2:30	Ergon St James Inc	FIXED	CALLER IS REPORTING A STRONG CHEMICAL ODOR IN THE AIR FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE.	UNKNOWN	1181647
7/5/2017 8:00	Mosaic Faustina Ammonia Plant	STORAGE TANK	CALLER STATED ANHYDROUS AMMONIA RELEASED FROM A KNOCK- OUT SURGE TANK VENT TO THE AIR. THIS WAS DUE TO TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE BEING LIQUIFIED.	OTHER	1183133
7/10/2017 23:10	Capline Dock	VESSEL	CALLER REPORTED A DISCHARGE OF AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF OIL FROM A TUG/BARGE VESSEL INTO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. THE CALLER BELIEVES THE OIL IS CRUDE OIL.	UNKNOWN	1183707
7/10/2017 23:15	Nustar	VESSEL	CALLER IS REPORTING THAT THERE WAS A DISCHARGE OF AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF CRUDE OIL TO THE WATER FROM A BARGE. THE CAUSE OF THE DISCHARGE IS UNKNOWN.	UNKNOWN	1183708
7/14/2017 13:33		FIXED	THE CALLER IS REPORTING COMING ACROSS OIL IN A ROAD SIDE DITCH THAT HAS WATER IN IT. THERE IS A DEAD FISH IN THE DITCH.	UNKNOWN	1184089
7/15/2017 18:30		VESSEL	CALLER IS REPORTING THAT A TUG WAS OVERFILLED RESULTING IN THE DISCHARGE OF DIESEL INTO THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER.	OPERATOR ERROR	1184200
7/17/2017 2:40	Occidental Chemical Corporation	STORAGE TANK	CALLER IS REPORTING A LEAK IN THE SIDE OF A STORAGE TANK RESULTED IN A RELEASE OF SODIUM HYDROXIDE.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1184300
7/18/2017 5:33	Mosaic Faustina Ammonia Plant	FIXED	CALLER STATED THAT A PUMP-ON LINE IN A BLEED VALVE WAS OPENED DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSES AND RELEASED ANHYDROUS AMMONIA INTO A KNOCK OUT POT THEN TO THE AIR.	UNKNOWN	1184399

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7/28/2017 12:45	AmSty	FIXED	CALLER STATED THAT THEY DISCOVERED A PIN HOLE LEAK IN PIPING THAT RELEASED VENT GAS WHICH CONTAINS BENZENE. THIS RESULTED IN A RELEASE OF 57.5 POUNDS OF BENZENE TO THE ATMOSPHERE.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1185587
7/31/2017 17:24		FIXED	CALLER STATED THEY SMELL A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF GASOLINE OR OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCT IN THE AIR OUTSIDE OF A PRIVATE RESIDENCE, DUE TO AN UNKNOWN CAUSE. CALLER WAS EXPERIENCING NAUSEA AND SICKNESS.	UNKNOWN	1185834
8/17/2017 8:30		FIXED	CALLER STATED 60 GALLONS OF SHELL CATENEX T129 OIL (NON HAZARDOUS) RELEASED FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE ONTO THE GROUND AND INTO A STORM DRAIN. CALLER STATED CONTRACTOR ARRIVED ON SITE AT 1050 AND DISCOVERED THE OIL IN THE DRAINS.	UNKNOWN	1187552
8/25/2017 11:45	Ergon St James Inc	UNKNOWN SHEEN	CALLER STATED THAT A LIGHT RAINBOW SHEEN WAS DISCOVERED ALONGSIDE THE DOCK.	UNKNOWN	1188361
8/29/2017 18:50		FIXED	CALLER STATED THAT A SMELL OF CRUDE OIL OR OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCT FROM OUTSIDE HER HOUSE IS GIVING HER A HEADACHE. THE SOURCE OF THE SMELL IS UNKNOWN.	UNKNOWN	1188755
9/28/2017 9:10		UNKNOWN SHEEN	CALLER RECEIVED A REPORT OF A LIGHT SHEEN COMING FROM UPRIVER FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE.	UNKNOWN	1191741
10/5/2017 6:30		UNKNOWN SHEEN	CALLER IS REPORTING THAT THERE IS AN UNKNOWN SHEEN BETWEEN THE WORK DOCK AND BANK. CALLER STATED THAT THE SOURCE OF THE SHEEN IS UNKNOWN.	UNKNOWN	1192350
10/21/2017 7:00		FIXED	CALLER REPORTS A STRONG ODOR OF A GAS AND OIL SMELL IN THE AIR CAUSING INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE HEADACHES.	UNKNOWN	1193892
10/26/2017 17:05		PIPELINE	CALLER IS REPORTING A DISCHARGE OF CRUDE OIL FROM A PIPELINE DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSE.	UNKNOWN	1194408

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11/10/2017 12:50		STORAGE TANK	DIESEL FUEL DISCHARGED FROM A DIESEL TANK THAT WAS ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED OVER ON IT'S SIDE WHILE IT WAS BEING MOVED.	OPERATOR ERROR	1196872
1/18/2018 20:33	AmSty	FIXED	AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF HYDROCARBON AND WATER MIXTURE DISCHARGED FROM A 3" DOCK LINE ACCUMULATOR, AFTER FREEZING TEMPERATURES CAUSED THE LINE TO SPLIT.	NATURAL PHENOMENON	1202281
2/1/2018 11:08	Noranda Alumina Intake	FIXED	CALLER REPORTED A SHEEN DISCOVERED COMING FROM A FACILITY DURING AN OVERFLIGHT.	UNKNOWN	1203409
2/4/2018 9:00	Water Treatment Plant	VESSEL	CALLER IS REPORTING 1 GALLON DISCHARGE OF DIESEL DUE TO EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION OF A DRAIN LINE.	EQUIPMENT FAILURE	1203569
2/15/2018 7:37	Mosaic Faustina Ammonia Plant	FIXED	CALLER IS REPORTING A STRONG CHEMICAL ODOR IN THE AIR COMING FROM A NEARBY FERTILIZER PLANT DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSES.	UNKNOWN	1204471
2/16/2018 11:20		VESSEL	CALLER STATED THEIR BOAT WAS DOCKED WHEN ANOTHER BOAT CRASHED INTO THEIR BOAT GOING ABOUT 6.9 MPH. THERE IS DAMAGE TO THE BOAT. NO RELEASE AT THIS TIME. BOAT TWO COULD NOT STOP AND KEPT GOING. THERE WAS ALSO A BARGE THAT HAS BEEN DAMAGED. THE BARGE HAS 25,233 BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL.	UNKNOWN	1204519
2/25/2018 11:00		UNKNOWN	CALLER IS REPORTING A SMELL IN THE AIR OF ROTTEN EGGS AND OIL THAT IS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.	UNKNOWN	1205196