

POLLUTION FACTS

OIL REFINERIES IN LOUISIANA



Louisiana has seventeen oil refineries including some of the largest in the country.^{1,2} Chronic, on-going emissions and large accidents from refineries and chemical plants pollute and endanger all of us, but especially neighboring communities. Since 2005, there have been 4,135 accidents at refineries and associated chemical plants in Louisiana, an average of more than 8 per week. To find out more about the refinery near you, visit labucketbrigade.org and click on **Refinery Accident Database**.

TOP POLLUTANTS RELEASED IN 2013

Pollutant	Pounds Released	Health Effects
Sulfur Dioxide	809,720	Impacts lung function, triggers asthma ⁴
Carbon Monoxide	206,574	Reduces oxygen delivery to organs, chest pains, fatal in high doses ⁵
Hydrogen Cyanide	200,422	Lightheadedness, nausea, dizziness, seizures, fatal in high doses ⁶
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	128,424	Eye, nose and throat irritation, liver, kidney and nervous system damage ⁷
Propylene	111,559	Large doses cause unconsciousness ⁸

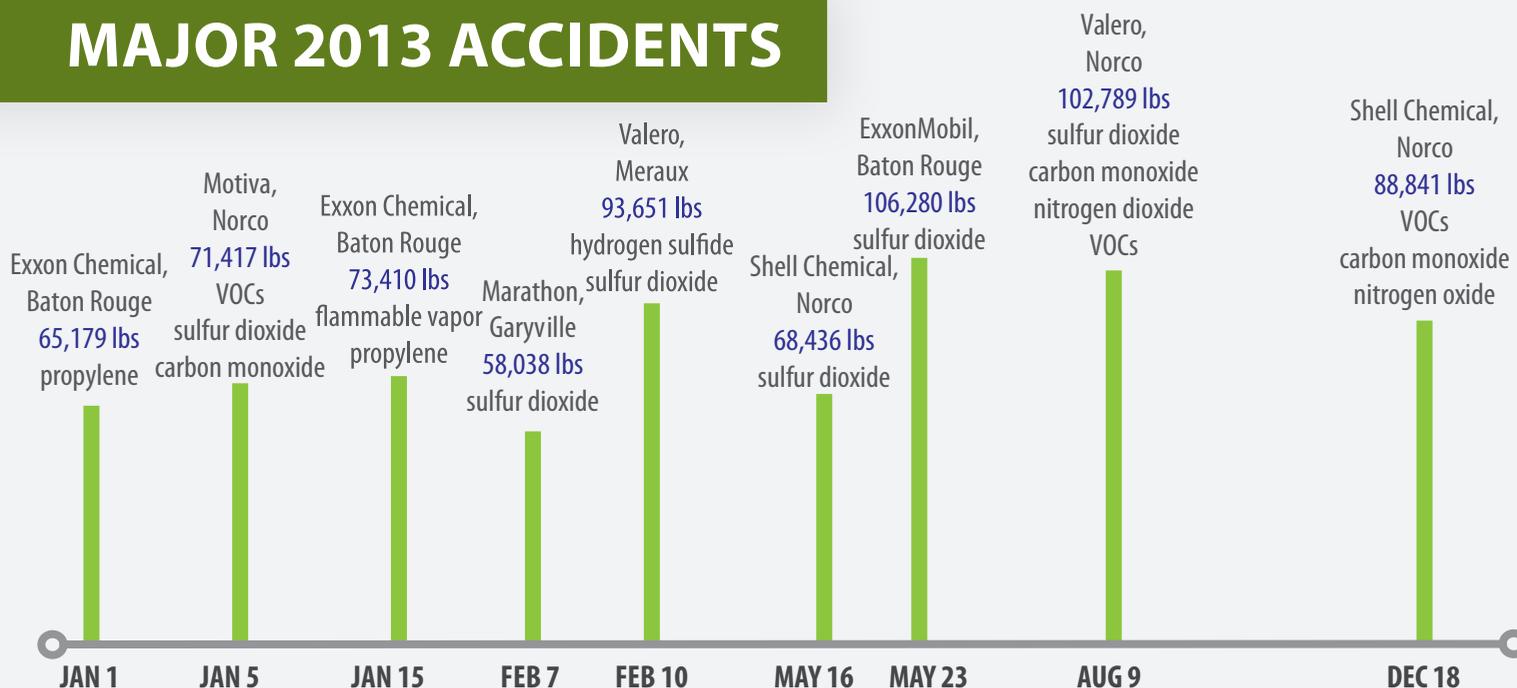
REFINERY ACCIDENTS

Louisiana refineries and associated chemical plants reported 340 accidents in 2013. That's over 6 accidents every week.³

These accidents released over 1,750,000 pounds and over 62,000 gallons of pollution in 2013.³ Residents are rarely notified during these accidents.

The only data we have on refinery pollution comes from self-reporting, so pollution totals are likely underestimated.

MAJOR 2013 ACCIDENTS



WHO IS IMPACTED?

Refinery	% African-American within one mile ⁹	% African-American parish wide ¹⁰	% below the poverty line within one mile ⁹	% below the poverty line parish wide ¹⁰
Calumet Refining, Shreveport	91	48	71.9	21.6
Motiva, Norco	8	26	28.8	12.3
ExxonMobil, Baton Rouge	95.3	45	66.1	20.9

Minority and low income communities bear the brunt of the illness and economic impact of Louisiana's refinery pollution.

Over 1 million people live within five miles of a refinery in Louisiana.⁹ These communities are routinely exposed to pollution from accidents and daily emissions at refineries and associated chemical plants.

TAKE ACTION

Report pollution

If you don't report pollution, it's like it never happened. Call or text **504-272-7645**. See other reports at iWitnesspollution.org

Organize your community

There is power in numbers and facilities are more likely to take complaints from groups seriously.

Call parish officials

who are elected to protect residents. Contact your local officials when pollution occurs.

Ronesha Johnson, Velma White and Shamioka Jackson are members of Residents for Air Neutralization in Shreveport, LA.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Ronesha, on Calumet's faulty reporting:

"Calumet always says there was no offsite impact, but our bucket samples--the results show that we are being impacted by what's going on at this refinery."

Shamioka, on how pollution has impacted her children's health and quality of life:

"When we come outside into the neighborhood it flares up. Like his bronchitis acts up, his respiratory acts up. So I rarely let my kids come outside. They be like, 'Why you holding them inside, it's not gonna help.' It helps a little bit. It stops me from coming into the ER every week with one child, and then the next week I'm there with another child."



References

- <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=204>
- <http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/refinerycapacity/table5.pdf>
- www.louisianarefineryaccidentdatabase.org
- <http://www.dow.com/productsafety/finder/pro.htm>
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- http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html#Health_Effects
- <http://www.dow.com/productsafety/finder/pro.htm>
- <http://echo.epa.gov>
- <http://censusreporter.org>

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