

Purafil Scrubber Protects Staff and Surrounding Community During a Chlorine Gas Leak in Mississippi

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

THE PROBLEM:

On Monday, September 19, 2022, on-site safety personnel were notified of an alarm that went off at O.B. Curtis Water Treatment Plant indicating a chlorine gas leak. All personnel were evacuated, and multiple agencies responded to the event. **“First responders, along with O.B. Curtis’s maintenance staff, identified three leaking valves and secured the area.”**

THE SOLUTION:

In 2006, the O.B. Curtis Water Treatment Plant installed a FOC-1, Fiberglass Emergency Gas Scrubber (EGS) with Chlorosorb® dry-scrubbing media adjacent to the chemical building. Purafil’s EGS is designed to contain the entire contents of a fully loaded 1-ton chlorine cylinder in a worst-case release scenario, which exceeds the requirements of the Uniform Fire Code. **“The building has air scrubbers to keep chlorine from escaping the building. The devices worked as designed”**, the release states.

Instead of using toxic, liquid caustic to neutralize gases, the EGS uses non-toxic, dry-scrubbing media. This Chlorosorb’s chemisorptive process removes chlorine by means of adsorption, absorption and chemical reaction. Chlorine gas is trapped within the pellets where an irreversible chemical reaction changes the chlorine gas into a harmless solid. The personnel on site performed annual media life testing, provided free of charge by Purafil, on the filtration media. After 16 years, the original Chlorosorb media was fully functional and ready when needed. During the chlorine leak at O.B. Curtis, Purafil’s EGS immediately began to remove the chlorine gas, minimizing the risk to employees and the community. **“No injuries were reported... No other evacuations of the surrounding area were needed.”** During a full cylinder release, chlorine gas can reach concentrations that are dangerous to human life in up to a five-mile radius.

ABOUT THE AREA:

Able to produce 50 million gallons of water a day, the O. B. Curtis plant was built in the late 1980s to address the rapidly increasing population in Jackson, Mississippi and serves as the main water treatment plant for the region.

ABOUT PURAFIL:

Purafil is proud to make the world safer, healthier, and more productive by protecting critical and vulnerable environments from harmful and unpleasant contaminants in the air. Since 1969 Purafil has been trusted to protect many world-renowned landmarks, including historic chapels, national museums, pulp and paper mills, oil refineries, NASA laboratories, semiconductor fabrication, airports, and many more.



<https://www.wlbt.com/2022/09/19/emergency-officials-respond-chlorine-leak-ob-curtis-water-treatment-plant/>

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