

ExxonMobil shuts down PE unit in Beaumont

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US polyethylene (PE) producer ExxonMobil shut down a high pressure unit at its Beaumont polyethylene plant in Texas over the weekend, the company said in a public filing on Monday.

The shutdown occurred on 16 December at 12:58 Beaumont time (18:58 GMT) after a safety relief vent opened and ethylene was released, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

It was not clear whether the unit remained down or whether it had been restarted.

A company spokesperson confirmed the report but said she could offer no further information on the incident.

ExxonMobil has two polyethylene units in Beaumont, including a low density polyethylene (LDPE) unit with a capacity of 225,000 tonnes/year and a linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) unit with a capacity of 705,000 tonnes/year, according to ICIS plants and projects.

Source ICIS News