



[Subscribe](#)

[Sign In](#)

Most Popular

1. Texas could lose a state park near Houston to development

2. Doctor's \$25M suit against Houston Methodist dismissed

3. Humble teen accused in mom's death can't go home if bail is made

4. |  
|  
|

BUSINESS // ENERGY

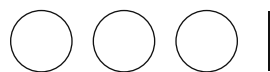
# Major refineries outside Houston suffer upsets after tornado reported in area

Tornado, storms disrupt operations at refineries near Houston



**Amanda Drane**

Updated: Jan. 24, 2023 6:30 p.m.



[Privacy Settings](#)



Flares burn at refineries east of the Sam Houston Parkway where a tornado was reported to pass along Mickey Gilley Boulevard near Fairmont Parkway, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, in Pasadena.

Mark Mulligan/Staff photographer

Major refineries and chemical facilities outside Houston were reporting operational upsets after a tornado was reported in the area Tuesday afternoon.

The severe string of storms knocked out power to parts of the refining corridor southeast of the city, forcing facilities to flare and at least one chemical facility, Braskem's complex in LaPorte, to do a controlled shut-down, the company told the community in an online message board.

The extent of the damage was still coming to light Tuesday night as energy companies began surveying the damage. Many facilities were flaring as a way to release pressure and stabilize the facilities after power outages interrupted normal operations.

## **STORM WATCH:** [Live coverage of tornado that hit Pasadena, Deer Park](#)

Shell Chemicals in Deer Park said in a statement that the storm knocked out its onsite steam capabilities, resulting in flaring. “There is no threat to the community, nor are there any indications a nearby tornado touched down within the Chemicals facility,” the company said on Twitter.

Exxon Mobil said it was beginning to inspect its Baytown facilities for potential damage, but that its operations were stable.

“At this time we have no reports of any injuries to Exxon Mobil employees or contractors,” the company said. “We are conducting a preliminary assessment to determine if there is impact to our facilities.”

---

### **ADVERTISEMENT**

Article continues below this ad

The Deer Park refinery owned by Pemex said it was “experiencing operational upsets” Tuesday that resulted in flaring. LyondellBasell’s facility in LaPorte and Dow Chemical’s facility in Deer Park were also reporting incidents.

A chemicals facility owned by INEOS said it was sheltering in place shortly before 3 p.m. after the tornado warning was issued.

### **DAMAGE REPORT:** What we know about storm's impact on Houston area

Debnil Chowdhury, S&P Global Commodity Insights’ head of fuel and refining in the Americas, said he and his colleagues were monitoring the situation for potential impacts to refineries and the larger fuel markets, but that power outages in the area may be an early sign of operational interruptions on the horizon for refineries in Deer Park and Baytown.

“We do not have any information on if the refineries were hit by the tornado at this time,” Chowdhury said in a statement. “CenterPoint Energy is indicating that there are power outages in the vicinity of both refineries. Historically, refineries faced with power grid reliability issues may shut down temporarily as a precautionary safety measure.”

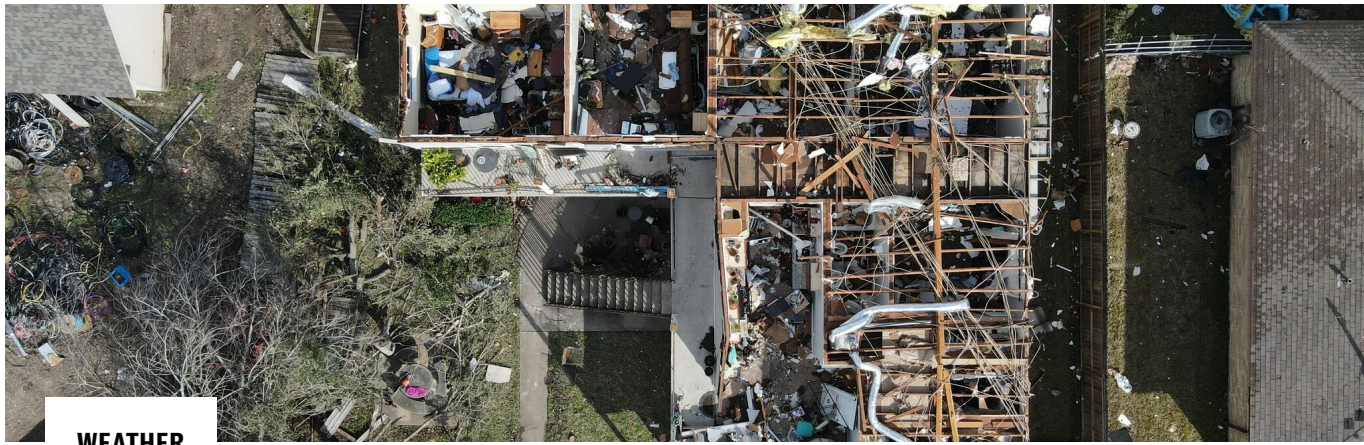
If refineries sustained damage and stay offline, he said, the outages could push up fuel prices.

*amanda.drane@chron.com*



Written By  
**Amanda Drane**

Privacy Settings



WEATHER

## Exclusive drone footage and photos show aftermath of tornado in Pasadena and Houston

Drone footage captured by the Houston Chronicle displays the aftermath of Tuesday's tornado in Pasadena and Houston, as well as local recovery efforts.

**BY RYAN NICKERSON**

---

### MOST POPULAR



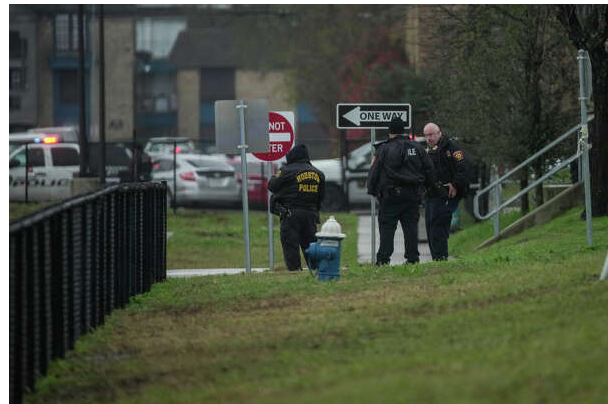
**Texas could lose a state park near Houston to development**



**Doctor's \$25M suit against Houston Methodist dismissed**



**Editorial: UH earned Texas' respect, and a \$1 billion endowment**



**HPD: Everyone safe, suspect in custody after fleeing into school**

**ABOUT**

[Our Company](#)

[Interest Based Ads](#)

[Newspaper Delivery Safety Procedures](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Your California Privacy Rights](#)

[Careers](#)

**CONTACT**

[Subscribe](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[e-Edition](#)

[Newsroom Contacts](#)

[Archives](#)

[Corporate Subscriptions](#)

[Customer Service](#)