

# **Characterizing Incident Reports Associated with Grand Bois Waste Facility**

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## **Abstract**

Grand Bois, Louisiana is a small town just outside of Bourg located on Highway 24. There is a small population of around 300 people whose homes are located within only a few hundred feet of an Exxon waste site. The disposal site was established in 1995 and immediately began to experience back lash as the residents of Grand Bois began to experience health concerns. Several studies were done by many different researchers who found that the residents were experiencing symptoms like headaches, dizziness, and trouble breathing when they stepped outside of their homes. Several lawsuits began to unfold but none were ever successful, and the waste facility remains there today.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality holds records of all incident reports that have been filled at the facility. The incident reports include any complaints filled by the public as well as any accidents or spills that were reported on site. Grand Bois has a total of thirty incident reports since its opening and reports are as current as 2021. After separating the incident reports into five different categories, it was evident that odor and fumes was the most common report at the facility. This research project will compare the number of incident reports as well as the types of incident reports at the Grand Bois facility to other similar waste facilities across Louisiana.

It is predicted that Grand Bois will have the highest number of reports among all facilities chosen. This project is geared to bring attention to the small town of Grand Bois and hopefully trigger more research in the area to get the people the justice they have been seeking since 1995. It will also bring attention to the common problems found at waste facilities and possible methods that may be used to prevent the issues from happening.