

Pertamina Multi Tank Fire Indonesia March 20th 2021

Early Info

March 29th 2021

Reuters:

- JAKARTA (Reuters) - A fire at the Balongon oil refinery operated by state-owned oil and gas company PT Pertamina has not damaged the refinery's processing capabilities, Pertamina Chief Executive Officer Nicke Widyawati told a news conference on Monday.
- The blaze that broke out in the early hours of Monday, injuring five and forcing 950 residents to evacuate was focused on the refinery's tanks, with no damage to the processing plant, Widyawati told reporters.
- While the refinery was shut down to fight the fire, the company said there it hoped operations could return to normal in the next five days.



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The massive fire broke out just after midnight on Monday



Smoke rises during fire at Pertamina's oil refinery in Balongan, Indramayu regency, West Java province, Indonesia, March 29, 2021 in this photo taken by Antara Foto. Antara Foto/Dedhez Anggara/ via REUTERS



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Smoke rising from the refinery

BBC:

- **Firefighters in Indonesia are working to put out a massive fire that has broken out at one of the country's largest oil refineries.**
- The fire broke out at the Balongan refinery, run by state oil firm Pertamina, at 00:45 local time on Monday (17:45 GMT Sunday).
- At least five people are injured and around 950 residents have been evacuated to safety. A handful of people have been reported missing.
- The cause of the fire remains unclear.
- TV footage and videos on social media showed the fire still raging on Monday morning with a plume of smoke rising high above the refinery, located in West Java province.

- "We smelled a strong fuel scent first, so strong that my nose hurt, while we heard lightning strikes," one nearby resident told local news outlet Metro TV, according to a Reuters report.
- According to the regional disaster management agency, five people were being treated in hospital for serious burns with another 15 with minor burns.
- The injured are both nearby residents and people who were on a road near the refinery when the fire broke out.
- The oil firm also said it was shutting down the refinery and conducting "oil flow control" to prevent any further spread.
- The Balongan refinery, which is located approximately 200km (125 miles) east of the capital Jakarta and measures at least 340 hectares, can process 125,000 barrels per day.

A 'disastrous incident'

Jerome Wirawan, BBC News Indonesia

The Balongan Refinery is one of Indonesia's largest refineries and also one of its most crucial, as it feeds fuel and petrochemicals to the greater Jakarta area.

Questions have now been raised on how this incident will affect plastics and chemicals businesses and factories, though Pertamina has told the public that "fuel delivery to the public is undisturbed and currently still ongoing".

Already many are demanding answers on how such a disastrous incident could happen to a state-owned refinery.

One politician, Kurtubi, pointed out in a TV interview that Balongan refinery, which has been in operation since 1994, is relatively new compared with other Pertamina refineries.

Mr Kurtubi, who is a member of the House of Representatives' commission for energy affairs, also demanded an evaluation of the distances between oil refineries and residential zones.

On social media, there were calls for a thorough investigation. "Was there sabotage or is this a genuine accident?" asked one Indonesian netizen.

Others questioned whether standard operating procedure had been followed. "Otherwise, the person who caused this must be taken to court," said another netizen.

Links

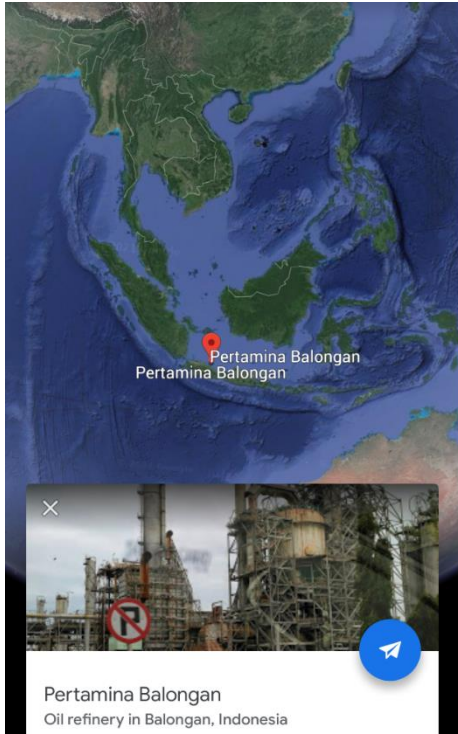
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-refinery-fire-pertamina-idUSKBN2BL09W>

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/indonesia-pertamina-oil-refinery-fire-injured-evacuated-14514836>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56560826>

Videos

- [Konferensi Pers Pertamina Terkait Kebakaran Kilang Minyak di Balongan – YouTube](#)
- [Pantauan Udara Kilang Minyak Pertamina Balongan yang Terbakar – YouTube](#)
- [Terbaru! Kondisi Terkini Kebakaran Kilang Minyak Pertamina Balongan - YouTube](#)



Estimated location Tankfires



