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Fire at Tg Langsat Port put out

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TANJUNG LANGSAT: The inferno that ravaged two fuel storage tanks at the Tanjung Langsat Port in Iskandar Malaysia were finally extinguished Wednesday after firemen battled the flames for more than 67 hours.

The fires, believed to have caused tens of millions of ringgit in losses, were put out at 2pm.

Seri Alam OCPD Supt Mohd Roslan Zainuddin said that in the four days of the blaze, no loss of life or injuries had been reported.

The fire, which began at around 6.45pm on Aug 17 at a storage tank containing 17.8 million litres of unleaded petrol spread to an adjacent tank containing 8 million litres of highly flammable Naphta at around 7.10pm the following day.

Supt Mohd Roslan said that the fire in the tank containing Naphta was put out at around 9.30pm on Tuesday while the tank containing the Octane 95 petrol was put out at 2pm Wednesday.

"Around 500 personnel including 14 fire engines were involved in the operation," he said at a press conference.

The fuel belongs to Swiss commodities trader Trafigura Pte Ltd, which leased the tanks at the port.

Supt Mohd Roslan said that the reason for the blaze had yet to be determined, but he ruled out sabotage or arson.

He declined to put a value to the losses, saying that investigations were still ongoing.

However, he said that the Environment Department (DOE) had been monitoring air and water quality in the area, and had found that the air index quality was at a moderate level.

"They found that there was no air pollution detected in Kampung Tanjung Langsat and no fuel was spilt into the sea," he said.

State Fire and Rescue Department director Ab Ghani Daud said that the fire fighting efforts had initially been hampered by several factors including uncertain weather.



"The inferno was too hot that our men could not get near enough. Things also improved once we started pumping water from the sea using hydro shafts," he said, adding that the foam flooding technique had been used.

Firemen from Terengganu, Perak, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Kedah and Johor were roped in to put out the fire.

Meanwhile, Tanjung Langsat Port Sdn Bhd director Lukman Abu Bakar thanked all those who were involved in the fire-fighting operation.