

Explosions Postpone Games

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A shelter in place order Tuesday night following an incident at the BP refinery led to an early ending to high school baseball and softball action between the Texas City Stings and the La Marque Cougars.

While an orange glow with shooting flames was visible shortly before the start of the game, audible alarms signaling a shelter in place did not sound until there were two outs in the top of the first inning, a runner on first base and a full count to the batter.

Once the alarms sounded, the grandstands emptied quickly.

While the fans were anxious to head to safer ground, at least one person was hoping the game would have gone on a little longer.

“We wanted to wait and see if we could strike the batter out,” said Chick Young, Texas City coach. “We’ll just start over on (today).”

The team will try to see if they can strike the batter out today when the game resumes at 7 p.m.

“That was the first available time we could reschedule the game,” Young said.

When the game does resume, it will mark the opening to the second round of the district baseball season with Texas City (4-1) looking to stay in first place in the standings and La Marque (0-5) looking for their first win of the season.

Tuesday’s incident marks the first time that Young can remember having to end a game due to a shelter in place.

“We’ve had to shelter down during some workouts but this is the first time that it has happened during a game,” Young said.

The varsity players for Texas City were released to their parents who were at the game, according to Young.

The Texas City Junior Varsity players were sheltered at the College of the Mainland after their game at La Marque was called.

Texas City’s softball game against La Marque was also scrubbed as a result of the sheltering order.

“We were in the bottom of the second inning leading 1-0 and were just about to bat when we heard the explosions,” said Scott DeMarco, Texas City softball coach.

Asked when he thought the game would resume, DeMarco said he wasn’t sure.

“I’m looking at it right now and the plant is still burning,” DeMarco said. “I was just talking with another coach about how many kids are probably not going to be at school (today). The earliest we could play the game would be (today) or Thursday.”