



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

**Compliance and Enforcement Division**  
**Bay Area Air Quality Management District**  
**939 Ellis Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94109**

## **INCIDENT REPORT**

*PRELIMINARY - INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE*  
**CHEVRON-TEXACO REFINERY SITE #A0010**  
**AUGUST 9, 2003 INCIDENT**

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On Saturday August 9, 2003 at approximately 7:15 p.m., Chevron refinery in Richmond shutdown the Isocracker reactor R-610 due to a temperature excursion. Depressuring the reactor overwhelmed the North Isomax (NISO) Flare causing visible emissions and odors. The District received a total of fifteen (15) complaints of which one was complaining of smoke. The complainants described the odor as rotten eggs, pungent and rotten.

The Isocracker reactors are severe hydrotreaters that denitrify the feed and perform cracking. The reactions are carried out at high temperatures and pressures in the presence of hydrogen gas

At 7.20 p.m. Chevron notified Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) of a Level 1 release from the NISO Flare. At 7:52 p.m. Chevron followed up using the Community Warning System (CWS) notifying the CCHS of the Level 1. Chevron notified the District at 8:50 p.m. of flare activity, off property odor complaints and ground level monitor activity. The District responded to the incident scene. At 9:19 p.m. CCHS activated the CWS and issued a Level 3 due to the number of community complaints.

CCHS took one air sample during this incident that was analyzed at the District Laboratory. The Castro Street GLM recorded an excess of Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) in excess of District standards with a peak of 224 ppb at approximately 9:00 p.m. GLM activity began approximately 7:15 p.m. and continued until approximately 9:30 p.m. The wind direction during this incident was approximately west-northwest at about 12 mph.

The District estimated emissions for this incident to be 0.5 tons of H<sub>2</sub>S, 2 tons of SO<sub>2</sub>, and 6 tons of organics. The District issued a Notice of Violation for causing a public nuisance for this incident.

To view the sample results click here: [!\[\]\(50ba758255c5d7cec2761495a31c7c80\_img.jpg\)](#)

