



Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

Vasco Road Landfill (Site #A5095)

Livermore, CA

April 2, 2004

At approximately 6:50 AM, Vasco Road Landfill reported to the Alameda County Fire Department that they had a fire in their auto interior scrap storage area. The material stored in this area is shredded automobile interiors. This material is used to cover the top of newly received garbage to prevent vermin infestations.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District Inspection Staff responded with the Incident Response Van to monitor the smoke plume and to gather air samples. The fire was approximately the size of two football fields. Gusting winds up to 20 miles per hour from the North fueled the spread of the fire. Smoke impacted the eastern portion of Livermore. Landfill personnel under the supervision of the Alameda County Fire quickly established containment and buried the fire with dirt. At approximately 8:30 AM, the County of Alameda Fire Department advised the City of Livermore residents and schools to shelter-in-place and this advisory was lifted at 1:10 PM.

Fire department chemical analysis found no usually high levels of cyanide, hydrogen chloride, nitrogen dioxide, or carbon monoxide. The District collected 3 air samples^{1,2} from this incident.

The first air Sample (A) taken on Vasco Road downstream of the fire at approximately 9:00 AM contained somewhat elevated levels of compounds above background. The sample contained vinyl chloride and 1,3 butadiene, as well as elevated chloroform, Perchloroethylene (PERC), and Trichloroethylene (TCE). These compounds are typically found from the incomplete combustion of plastic materials.

Sample (B) was taken directly in the fire plume by Alameda County Fire Department personnel. The sample also contained compounds typically found from incomplete combustion of plastic material. The sample contained about 100 ppb of vinyl chloride and 1,3 butadiene, as well as elevated levels of chloroform, PERC, and TCE.

Sample (C) was taken at 1:50 PM at the same location as Sample (A) after the fire had been covered and shows a return to typical ambient air concentrations and ratios. Vinyl chloride was still detected just slightly above normal levels, but all other compounds had returned to normal.

The District received no complaints but a few calls of concern from as far away as San Jose.

¹ Attached map identifying sample locations.

² Laboratory analysis of samples.