



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

**Tesoro Refining Company (Site #B2758)
Martinez, CA
August 24, 2005**

On August 24, 2005 at about 4:15 pm the Tesoro Refinery located in Avon, east of Martinez, experienced a fire at their Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU). The fire was limited to the main air blower, where a bearing failure occurred. The lube oil associated with the blower bearing caught on fire, and there was a black plume released for about 15 minutes. A Level-2 emergency notification was issued on the County's Warning System at 4:22 pm, due to the potential for off-site impact.

District Inspectors, Contra Costa County Agencies (Hazardous Materials Division, Sheriff Department, & Fire Department), and Cal-OSHA responded to this incident. The winds during the incident were from the west at 14 mph. Ambient air samples were collected downwind of the refinery for further analysis. The ground level monitor downwind of the refinery did not detect any sulfur compounds, during the time of the fire.

The District received one odor complaint from Bay Point. There were no reported injuries at the refinery, as a result of this incident. The fire was reported under control at 5:05 pm, followed by the county all-clear notification at 5:29 pm.

As a result of this fire, the FCCU was shutdown without incident and isolated. An emergency clean-up of debris will be initiated. District staff are inspecting this clean up work to ensure compliance with Air District regulations.

The preliminary cause for the fire and additional damage assessments to the FCCU are still under investigation. District staff is continuing to investigate this incident to determine if there are any violations of District Regulations.

UPDATE:

Further analysis indicates the equipment that failed was the FCCU Mini Blower, and not the main air blower. However, the main air blower did trip off and initiated the sequence of events.

Tesoro has completed their root cause analysis investigation and recommended changes in system design, procedures, and testing practices to prevent recurrence of a similar incident. Most of these recommendations have already been completed.

The ambient air samples collected did not record any detectable levels of pollutants and the odor complaint in Bay Point could not be confirmed. The clean up of debris was conducted in compliance with District Regulations.

There was no enforcement action taken against Tesoro, as a result of this incident.