



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

Valero Refinery (Site #B2626)
3400 E 2nd Street
Benicia, California
April 6, 2009

On April 6 at approximately 6:00 a.m., the Valero Refinery located in Benicia had an incident at their Sulfur Recovery Unit (SRU). The incident resulted from an upset at their SRU which removes sulfur compounds from refinery gas. An upset at a SRU can result in hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) releases. H₂S odor is typically described as a “rotten egg” odor and SO₂ is characterized as a “burnt match” or “acid” odor.

The Benicia Fire Department has received over 100 calls concerning the odor. The District has received more than 35 odor complaints from Benicia, Crockett, Vallejo and Marin. The Conoco Phillips Refinery in Rodeo, California, notified the Contra Costa County Community Warning System at approximately 7:30 AM because they observed over 100 parts per billion on their Ground Level Monitors (GLM) around their facility from this Valero incident. Valero does not participate in the Contra Costa County Community Warning System. Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Response Team has responded to the Crockett area.

The District is continuing the investigation.