



Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

**Schnitzer Steel Products (Site #A0208)
Oakland, CA
April 8, 2009**

On April 8, 2009 at approximately 2:45 PM, a fire occurred at Schnitzer Steel Products, located at 1101 Embarcadero West in Oakland, near the inner harbor area at the Port of Oakland. Schnitzer Steel operates a shredding facility for vehicles, appliances, and a wide variety of other ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal for offsite recycling. The facility was operating at the time of the fire. This fire occurred in one of several scrap stockpiles located on the property. The pile involved in the fire was a large pre-shred material pile, located adjacent to the south property line of the facility next to the Howard Marine Terminal. The size of the pile was approximately 40-50 feet high by 300-500 feet wide. Contents of the burning pile included automobiles and a wide variety of scrap metal items and their associated combustible products. The fire was extinguished at 4:56 PM.

Responding agencies included The Oakland Fire Department (OFD), OFD Hazardous Materials Unit, Oakland Police Department, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), United States Coast Guard, and California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The California Department of Fish and Game was consulted.

A thick, gray-brown plume of smoke was observed rising over the Hwy. 880/980 interchange to the E-NE just north of downtown Oakland, and towards the East Bay hills driven by winds from the W-SW at about 5 MPH. District staff helped advise other responding agencies and took two air canister samples at upwind and downwind locations from the fire. The District received two complaints of odor from the community located approximately two miles downwind.

District laboratory analysis found no unusually high levels of toxic compounds above ambient levels in the samples.

A preliminary investigation by OFD has determined the cause of the fire was spontaneous combustion of organic materials. District staff will continue to investigate this incident to determine if there were any violations of air quality regulations. This report will be updated as new information becomes available.