



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Air District statement on Chevron fire

SAN FRANCISCO – At 6:15 p.m. yesterday, August 6, a fire began at a crude unit of the Chevron Refinery in Richmond. A shelter in place was issued by the Contra Costa County Health Department to protect area residents. It ended at 11:31 p.m. yesterday.

The fire was contained last night. Safety officials are allowing a small controlled burn as a safety measure to reduce pressure.

The Bay Area Air District had inspectors on the scene last night assisting first responders and collecting air quality samples from the surrounding area. These were sent to the Air District's lab at 6 a.m. this morning, with results expected late today.

Local air quality monitors show minimal impacts from the fire, with pollution levels well below the federal health standards. Weather conditions were favorable at the time of the incident – surface winds were light and heat pushed the smoke upwards where stronger winds aloft helped to disperse it.

As part of the investigation, the Air District will review air quality monitoring data from monitors at the Chevron facility.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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