



NEWS

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Air District inspectors respond to Richmond Deal Auto Wrecking fire

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District was alerted to a significant fire in North Richmond. Air District staff arrived on scene at approximately 7:45 a.m. Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials issued a shelter-in-place and public health advisory at 8:27 a.m. for Richmond.

The fire caused significant smoke buildup in the North Richmond neighborhood closest to the fire at the Deal Auto Wrecking yard at the intersection of West Gertrude Avenue and Richmond Parkway.

“This morning we awoke to another serious fire in the city of Richmond,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air District. “Residents were affected by significant smoke this morning and fire crews took quick action to extinguish the fire and helped reduce the heavy smoke in the community.”

The main health impact from fires is from particulate matter – very fine particles in the smoke that when breathed can cause respiratory distress, irritated airways, coughing or difficulty breathing and can aggravate asthma. Smoke from fires can also cause itchy, watery eyes.

Air District inspectors responded to the site within 10 minutes of the start of the fire. The Air District’s inspection team remained on scene after the fire was extinguished.

The Air District collected samples and is reviewing air monitoring station’s data collected from all locations around the fire and downwind areas in Richmond, San Pablo, Martinez, Berkeley and Oakland. Samples will be analyzed over the weekend and results will be released early next week. Winds at the time were from the northwest at 10 to 15 mph and carried a heavy black smoke plume toward the El Cerrito hills.

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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