



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Air District issues six violations to Valero refinery** *Investigation continues to determine additional potential violations*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has issued a total of six violations following the incident that began on Friday, May 5, at the Valero Refinery in Benicia.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Notice of Violation</b>
Friday, May 5	Excess Visible Emissions
Friday, May 5	Excess Visible Emissions
Friday, May 5	Excess Visible Emissions
Friday, May 5	Public Nuisance Violation
Monday, May 8	Excess Visible Emissions
Monday, May 8	Public Nuisance Violation

On Friday, three notices of violation were issued for excess smoke when the large flaring incident began. A public nuisance violation was also levied against the refinery after evacuations and a shelter-in-place advisory were issued by local authorities.

On Monday, additional emissions from the refinery resulted in two more notices of violation: one excess visible emissions violation and one public nuisance violation.

The Air District is working with local, state and federal agencies in response to this incident. The Air District will continue monitoring the situation at the Valero refinery and will take appropriate enforcement action.

Flares are found at all Bay Area refineries and are safety devices that burn pollutants that would otherwise be directly released to the atmosphere. Flaring may result from the start-up and shutdown of units or during accidents or upsets.

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

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