



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

**Alameda Naval Hospital
Alameda, CA
March 29, 2009**

On March 29 at approximately 2:12 a.m., a fire began at the old Naval Hospital located in the City of Alameda. On March 29 at approximately 9:30 a.m., the Alameda Fire Department notified the District regarding the fire and potential for hazardous materials. The wind was from the west at about 4-7 miles per hour and the smoke and ash was impacting the community downwind. The Naval Hospital was closed in 1996 and is an abandoned building.

District Staff arrived on scene at about 11:15 a.m. and met with the Incident Commander (IC) to assess the situation. The building is estimated to be between 50 to 80 thousand square feet. District Staff and the IC surveyed approximately a one mile perimeter from the fire. The fire was generating a large white and black plume with ash fallout extending at ground level approximately ½ mile downwind. District Staff and the IC concurred on recommending a shelter in place for the affected community about ½ mile directly downwind of the fire. At approximately 2:00 p.m. the City of Alameda issued a shelter in place for the affected community approximately 1 mile to the east downwind.

The property owner of the previous navy facility is the City of Alameda. District Staff advised the Acting City Manager regarding the potential for asbestos containing building materials and proper abatement. During this incident, the District did not receive any complaints or inquiries from the surrounding community. District Staff took an air sample and the sample was analyzed by the District Lab ([click here](#) to view the **lab analysis results**). At about 5:00 p.m. the heavy construction equipment arrived to knock down parts of the structure to allow fire fighters access into the structure and help extinguish the fire, which helped to reduce the smoke and ash. At 9:15 p.m. the shelter in place was lifted. The fire department continued to suppress the fire and smoke and cleanup is continuing.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. District Staff will continue to investigate this incident and monitor the asbestos cleanup process. This report will be updated as new information becomes available.