



Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

**Sims Hugo Neu (Site #A5152)
Redwood City, CA
April 7, 2007**

At approximately 8:00 AM on April 7, 2007, a fire broke out at the Sims Hugo Neu facility, located at 699 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City. This facility is a scrap metal processing facility that shreds cars and appliances for recycle. The facility was in operation at the time of the fire. The materials involved in the fire included cars, car interiors, appliances and other material that had been placed in a very large pile and was about 40 feet high. The Redwood City and Menlo Park fire departments were on scene as well as state Office of Emergency Services. The fire was extinguished at 6:40 AM on April 8, 2007. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

In the morning hours, the shifting winds took the black smoke plume into Redwood City, Woodside, Menlo Park, Atherton, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. Later the westerly winds provided more dilution and carried some of the smoke across the bay to Hayward and bayside communities further south towards Fremont and San Jose. The District collected upwind and downwind ambient air samples at the scene. The downwind sample was collected directly in the path of the plume. Analysis of the downwind sample showed elevated levels of compounds such as benzene, styrene, and 1,3 butadiene, all of which are consistent with compounds found in combustion emissions. At the time the sample was taken, the plume was being carried south by the prevailing winds and does not necessarily represent ambient concentrations experienced by the public. (Click for a copy of [map](#) and [sampling results](#).)

District staff responded and helped advise first responders. The public was advised to avoid the smoke, to stay indoors and close air intake systems to their homes. The District handled five air pollution complaints from the public from Hayward, Menlo Park, Sunnyvale and San Jose. Air District ambient air monitors in Redwood City and San Jose showed elevated levels of fine particulates consistent with the smoke plume impact but no exceedances of air standards were measured. The District does not expect any significant long term effects associated with this incident.

On May 1, 2007, District Staff issued Notice of Violation (NOV) #A48954 to Sims Hugo Neu for an alleged violation of Regulation 1, Section 301: Public Nuisance.