



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

## Compliance and Enforcement Division

### INCIDENT REPORT

**Tesoro Refinery (Site #B2758)  
Martinez, CA  
October 14, 2008**

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At approximately 5:53 AM the Tesoro Refinery located in Avon, east of Martinez, had a flaring incident that lasted until 6:30 AM. The flaring incident resulted from a pressure increase at a gas processing plant which upgrades light hydrocarbon vapors and wet gas into propane and butane. At this time, Tesoro suspects that an instrument malfunction caused the high pressures which led to the flaring incident.

Tesoro vented the gas into the flare system to prevent the gas from being vented directly to the atmosphere through pressure relief devices. Tesoro called Contra Costa County at 6:22 AM and reported a "Level 1 – Excess Flaring" plant incident classification on the Community Warning System at 6:30 AM.

The unit was restored to normal operation and the flaring ceased at approximately 6:30 AM. The District received no air pollution complaints during this flaring event. District staff will continue to investigate if there were any violations of air quality regulations. Tesoro is required to conduct a causal analysis report on this flaring incident and submit it to the District once the causal investigation is completed.