



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

Sims Metal Management (A5152)

Redwood City, CA

November 10, 2013

On November 10, 2013, at approximately 1:20 PM, a fire broke out at the Sims Metal Management facility, located at 699 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City. This facility is a scrap metal processing facility that shreds cars and appliances for recycle. The fire occurred in the pile of non-automobile scrap materials that were awaiting shredding. Redwood City, Menlo Park and San Carlos Fire Departments responded to the fire at approximately 1:30 PM. The fire was extinguished around 5:40 AM, on November 11th. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

The fire generated a dark grey smoke plume that initially traveled south/southeast impacting Menlo Park and Palo Alto along the Highway 101 corridor. Redwood City Fire Department advised nearby residents to avoid the smoke, stay indoors and close air intake systems to their homes. Shifting winds overnight resulted in smoke odors being detected along the Peninsula from Redwood City to San Francisco and in the East Bay from Alameda to El Sobrante. The District received a total of 61 air pollution complaints from the public from the smoke impacted areas.

The Air District ambient air monitor in Redwood City showed elevated levels of fine particulates consistent with the smoke plume. District staff will continue to investigate this incident to determine if there were any violations of air quality regulations. This report will be updated as new information becomes available.

UPDATE: December 24, 2013

On December 11, 2013, District staff issued Notice of Violation (NOV) #A53144 to Sims Metal Management for violation of Regulation 1, Section 301: Public Nuisance.